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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-164 *24 August 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

AHRO Criticizes Rabin Stance on Egyptian POW Deaths

NC2308131595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—The Arab Human Rights Organization [AHRO] has expressed its extreme concern over the facts that have recently been revealed regarding the execution of Egyptian POW's in the 1956 and 1967 wars. The AHRO noted that it has received many testimonies proving that these crimes were not individual measures, but were a systematic policy through which the Israeli forces coldbloodedly killed prisoners and civilians in the areas that fell under their occupation.

The AHRO also expressed in a statement it issued today its surprise regarding Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's announcement that the past should be forgotten and that he refuses to discuss this in the Israeli Cabinet. The AHRO asserted that war crimes are not subject to the statute of limitations.

The AHRO pointed out that Israel has previously kicked up an international fuss over trying Nazi war criminals on this basis.

It stated that the call to carry out internal investigations in Israel is on its own not enough to reveal the facts, particularly since some accusations have been leveled against Israeli officials who are still in power.

The AHRO statement asserted the need to form an international committee to investigate the killing of the Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 wars.

It called for forming a parliamentary committee in Egypt to investigate the facts. Among the tasks of this committee would be to hold sessions to hear the testimonies of the comrades and families of the victims and to follow up on government measures taken in this regard.

The AHRO appealed to the international community and human rights organizations, which took a firm stance against Nazi crimes by considering them crimes against humanity, to condemn this action and strengthen its request by holding the investigation it is calling for and declaring the results.

The AHRO has formed a special committee to follow up on all the legal aspects dealing with this issue and to contact the international agencies and nongovernmental organizations concerned with human rights.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 18 Aug

NC2408070095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is the 264th in a series of editorial reports on political Islam in Egypt. These reports include summaries of all articles, reports, interviews, commentaries, and other items on political Islam that have been published in all the issues of the Cairo Arabic newspapers 'AQIDATI, AL-NUR, and AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH since late December 1993 and most issues of the twice-weekly AL-SHA'B. Unless otherwise indicated, no further processing of the items summarized below has been done or is planned.

This editorial report reviews AL-SHA'B's 18 August issue.

Contents:

1. Symposium Discusses, Criticizes Beijing Conference on Women
2. 'Adil Husayn: U.S. Wants Smaller Third World Population
3. Extremism, Terrorism Examined
4. Iraqi Defections, U.S. Moves Viewed

SYMPOSIUM DISCUSSES, CRITICIZES BEIJING CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

This issue of AL-SHA'B devotes considerable space to comments on the UN World Conference on Women that will open in Beijing in September. On page 3 there is a 3,000-word report on a symposium organized by the Labor Party's Women's Secretariat in Cairo on 16 August.

During the four-hour symposium, speakers "representing most political and intellectual streams," discussed the provisions of the document of the aforementioned conference. They decided that this document "involves a great injustice to women and turns them into a commodity subject to imposed materialistic values."

The speakers "asserted that the West is trying to deal with its current disintegration by encouraging further dissolution of the family, the abolition of the family's role, the dissemination of debauchery, and by dictating its erroneous concepts to oriental and Islamic societies."

Addressing the symposium, Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri noted that the Beijing agenda assaults the concept of the tight-knit family unit, an idea that is well grounded in Islam. He criticized the "bizarre concept" of pregnant teenagers for whom the document of the Beijing conference urges "care and educational services."

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He defended Islam against the charge that it denies women their rights and declared that Islam gave women their rights 1,400 years ago.

The well-known Islamic writer Fahmi Huwaydi, who also attended the symposium, said that the document reflects the Western view but noted that some people in the West resist these ideas and defend the family.

He added that focusing on women only does not solve social problems because society is made up of men and women. He further noted that lack of political freedom hurts everyone in society, not only women.

Fahmi remarked: "Reading the document, I felt that they want women to be equal to men. They turned the affair into a battle in which one side must triumph over the other. I ask: What is the reason for this battle? Those who drew up this document forget that society is an integrated unit. It is not true that all social problems, no matter how complicated, will be solved if we give women greater representation."

Blaming the IMF and the World Bank for interfering in people's affairs, he said: "I believe there is a certain party that wants to rearrange the world in accordance with its own special views."

Huda 'Afifi, secretary for women in the Liberal Party, declared: "The (public but covert) aim of this document is to keep the world as it is now, that is, to maintain the prosperity of the West and the United States and keep Third World countries poor."

She said that if Islamic Shari'ah is properly implemented, there will be no need for such conferences. She added that "we reject everything that contravenes our religion and traditions" and noted that "the family unit must be safeguarded."

'Afifi criticized some Egyptian groups participating in the Beijing conference for making documentary films that "portray the life of Egyptian women in an ugly way" in order to show them to delegations from various countries.

She asked: What is the use of showing such documentaries that lay Egyptian society bare and distort its image?

Summing up the discussions, Dr. Najla' al-Qaylubi, member of the Labor Party Executive Committee, said that the Labor Party's Women's Secretariat urges the Egyptian delegation to carry to Beijing the "concerns and suffering of the Arab, Muslim woman."

She urged Arabs and Muslims to examine very carefully whatever international charters and conventions are proposed to them especially as the UN-sponsored Beijing conference is meeting at a time when the United Nations "has purposely forgotten its role of defending right, justice, and equality among all nations and is specifically biased in its resolutions against Arab and Islamic peoples."

She noted that the Labor Party's Women's Secretariat stresses the role of the family and the role of woman as nurturer of her husband and children. She added that giving greater responsibilities to women in society must be "done in a natural way that protects the family and the woman herself in line with Islamic principles that have always held women in high esteem."

She said that the Labor Party's Women's Secretariat "refuses to let the Beijing conference be an occasion to demolish our Islamic values and traditions, replace them with bizarre values, and drive our new generations to the abyss of intellectual and sexual depravity."

Dr. al-Qaylubi called for serious examination of the Beijing document in order to formulate a "clear national position on its provisions."

Noting that the conference document calls for the formation of committees which will monitor their countries' expenditure on weapons programs, she warned that the conference might be used to recruit spies against their own countries, declaring:

"We also refuse to let the Beijing conference on women be a way to form espionage rings whose task will be to collect information."

'ADIL HUSAYN: U.S. WANTS SMALLER THIRD WORLD POPULATION

The Beijing UN World Conference on Women is also discussed by Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn in an approximately 3,000-word article on page 5 called: "They Are Imposing the Dissolution of the Family on Us So That We Will Become Infertile Like Them."

Husayn says that the conference, like the earlier UN International Conference on Population and Development, which was held in Cairo, has one chief aim: to control population increase among Third World nations and enable the rich countries to continue cheaply exploiting their natural resources.

He declares that the Beijing document seeks to impose a contemporary Western social model on Asian, African, and Latin American countries partly because of a patronizing colonialist attitude but notes that there is a more important reason.

"The Beijing document's insistence on dictating contemporary Western concepts with regard to women's issues has another reason that is connected with the

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strategy of controlling population increase among non-white nations, notably Islamic nations."

He says that this is clear from the fact that the Beijing agenda encourages "sexual practices without procreation or even marriage" and also calls for providing facilities for abortion.

Husayn cites a book published in the United States called "Excessive Force (Power, Politics, and Population Control)." He says that the book refers to the strategy of "halting the population growth of colored races, both in the United States and abroad." He also refers to a document, prepared by the U.S. National Security Council in the days of Henry Kissinger, that warns of the growing influence of countries with rapidly increasing population. The document, which Husayn says was called NSSM-200, makes a list of countries that the United States should fear in this connection, among them six Islamic states: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nigeria, Indonesia, Egypt, and Turkey.

He concludes his article by saying that NSSM-200 advises caution in advocating population control so that it will seem as if the leaders of the Third World countries are calling for birth control as a policy they have devised by themselves, not as a result of foreign pressure.

In an apparent reference to President Husni Mubarak's frequent calls for birth control, Husayn asks: "Does this not explain the organized insistence in our country to reduce population growth? Does not what we mentioned above explain the significance of the pronouncements repeatedly made by our senior officials about the importance of this policy to our national good, not the good of Israel or the United States?!"

EXTREMISM, TERRORISM EXAMINED

A 2,500-word article on page 11 by Dr. Ahmad Hamad, professor of Islamic Jurisprudence and Principles at Qatar University, examines what is meant by the terms extremism and terrorism. The article, called "The Phenomenon of Extremism and the Practice of Terrorism" offers the following views:

After pointing out that Islam calls for moderation, the writer asks: "Where then does extremism come from?"

He answers: "Apparently the horrendous events and catastrophes befalling Muslim societies are driving the Muslim public and preachers to adopt a hardline attitude with regard to religious teachings and to adhere rigorously to religious virtues. They do so because they fear that these events and persistent catastrophes will overwhelm and destroy society. The prevalent belief is that widespread corruption in any—particularly Islamic—society is the reason for all this."

He advises against confronting extremism with extremism and says it can best be remedied by fighting corruption.

On terrorism the writer has the following to say: "What is terrorism? Terrorism is putting fear into people's hearts. Terrorism is not necessarily linked to extremism. You can have extremism without terrorism if the government is wise enough to maintain a balance between the holders of extreme but opposed views, and just and fair enough to prevent any extremist from considering acts of terror because he feels that he has been wronged. Putting fear into people's hearts is not commendable in any society, whether the source of fear is an individual or the government. This fear might be caused by one individual to another, by an individual to a group or a government, or by a government to its citizens or the citizens of another country."

"The discussion of terrorism must be examined in some detail. Terrorism [used here in the Koranic sense of striking terror into the hearts of the enemies] might be a religious duty when it is directed against the enemies of Islam and the Muslims. It is the shari'ah-based obligation of every Muslim person and every Muslim government to make constant preparation for such striking of terror, in accordance with God's words: 'Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies, and others besides, whom ye may not know, but whom God knows.' [Koranic verse]"

The writer goes on to say that terror that is directed against the teachings of God and the Prophet and which threatens peaceable Muslim societies must be fought, but the terror that puts fear into the enemies' hearts is a quality that the Muslim community needs to have.

IRAQI DEFECTIONS, U.S. MOVES VIEWED

The defection of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law, former Industry Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan, and his brother to Jordan is highlighted by several reports and commentaries. A 1,000-word report by Mahmud Bakri on pages 1 and 8 says that, during an extended stay in Jordan for medical treatment last year, Hasan was approached by CIA men who offered to help install him as the Iraqi ruler instead of Saddam. (filed as nc2108202295 and add)

Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn, in a 1,400-word article on page 5, analyzes the Western attitude to Iraq and says the aim of the international coalition that fought Iraq in 1991 was not to liberate Kuwait, but to

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control the region's oil resources. (nc2108180995 and add)

Other items on the same issue are:

a) An unattributed 1,000-word report on page 2, called "Days Before Husayn Kamil's Escape: The U.S. State Department Warned of Iraq's Attempts to Return to the Arab Fold," cites a U.S. State Department report voicing concern about Saddam Husayn's efforts to mend fences with the other Arabs, including the Egyptian, Yemeni, Jordanian, Qatari, Emirian, Moroccan, and Tunisian leaders to whom he had sent messages. The report also notes a U.S. drive to build a stronger military presence in the region and draw Israel into a new regional military coalition with Arab approval.

b) A 1,500-word article by Muna Yasin, also on page 2, claims the United States is exploiting Husayn Kamil's defection to create fresh tension in the region and "create an atmosphere similar to that preceding the second Gulf war, with the aim of inciting the largest possible number of countries against Iraq." The article, bearing the headline "The U.S. Military Moves Strengthen Suspicions About the U.S. Role," suggests Iraq has done nothing to justify this "U.S. escalation" and its media have not even criticized Jordan itself over the defections, limiting comment to an attack on the defectors. The writer questions "the dramatic change in Jordan's attitude from being an ally of Iraq to granting asylum to Iraqi dissidents." But she notes that although King Husayn hastened to grant asylum to Husayn Kamil and allowed him to hold a news conference, the Jordanian Parliament "insisted on refusing to let Jordanian territory be used for any political or nonpolitical action against Iraq." Yasin declares that Iraqi opposition factions tend to reject Husayn Kamil as a credible opposition ally and that Kuwait's initial welcome of the defection was replaced by anxiety over Husayn Kamil's likely attitude to Kuwait if he becomes ruler in Saddam's place.

Yasin remarks: "Israel was the only party to feel unalloyed joy at what happened. It hastened again to offer itself as regional policeman and extend its services in receiving U.S. forces at its ports to facilitate any strikes against Iraq from its territory."

c) An 800-word article by Tal'at Musallam on the same page voices suspicion about the U.S. military moves in the region following the Iraqi defections but asserts: "The likelihood of Iraq initiating a military action against Jordan is remote." Under the headline "What Is Behind the Visit of the Commander of the U.S. Central Command?," Musallam says he is almost certain that the United States agreed with Husayn Kamil that he would stage a coup against Saddam and that it was "naturally greatly disappointed, perhaps shocked, when he failed and fled."

Musallam adds: "Here lies the gravity of the U.S. military moves. Our great fear is that the United States, seeing that its earlier attempts have failed and that its procrastination in lifting the blockade cannot go on indefinitely, realizes that it must deliver a blow to the current Iraqi Government or recognize its rights."

He declares that the United States will obtain Israeli assistance in its plans but warns Egypt not to get involved. He remarks: "The Egyptian Armed Forces should not be for hire or act on non-Egyptian instructions. What happened in 1991 is enough."

d) The final article on page 2 is a 1,300-word description by Buthaynah al-Nasiri of the Iraqi people's hardship under the economic sanctions and the rise in infant death rates as a result. It faults the Muslim countries for criticizing what it calls UN inaction in Bosnia-Herzegovina, while saying nothing about the UN attitude to Iraq. The article, called "Is it Time to Lift the Blockade on the Homeland of Water and Palms?," is accompanied by a three-column photo of two emaciated children.

Palestinian Affairs

Opposition Leaders View Jerusalem Bombing

MM2308132995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by Ibrahim al-Humaydi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Palestinian opposition leaders interviewed by AL-HAYAH in Damascus laid the blame on Israel for the operation in Jerusalem the day before yesterday, for which the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has claimed responsibility. It [Hamas] stated that this operation came within the context of armed struggle in which the opposition is engaged, because "the occupation cannot continue in spite of agreements" between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

While Abu-'Ali Mustafa, deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] led by George Habash, refused to comment on the operation, Dawud Talhami, spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] led by Nayif Hawatimah, put the entire blame on "the Israeli rulers, their occupation forces, and the settlers for all acts of violence perpetrated in the Palestinian occupied territories, be they the daily killings and arrests of Palestinians or the reprisals resulting from the repression and the occupation." He added that "the first and ultimate

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responsibility for the enduring troubled state in the occupied territories rests with the continuing Israeli occupation and the constant violations of international law and human rights" and stressed that "violent resistance against the occupation will only cease when the violence of the occupation itself ceases."

Islamic Jihad Movement Secretary General Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi said that "the Oslo agreement and the agreements that followed it, as well as those that will follow it, will not stop armed action against the occupation. Everyone knows that these agreements, and the latest in Taba, in effect reinforce the occupation. These marathon talks are only a waste of time and a humiliation for the Palestinian side, while they offer the Israeli side an easy, constant, and inexpensive occupation."

Sources from the PFLP-General Command, under the leadership of Ahmad Jibril, said that the Jerusalem operation came "within the context of armed struggle. It remains clear that they (the Palestinians) will follow this path and will not give it up, since they consider it one of the aspects of the struggle aimed at the settlers."

'Arafat Reportedly Not To Attend Signing Ceremony

NC2408090395 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 20 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahid in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has stated that he will not attend the signing ceremony of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement scheduled for 7 September. In an exclusive statement to the AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I correspondent in Gaza, he said he has not yet received an invitation from any party to attend the signing ceremony. 'Arafat noted that even if an invitation is sent to him, it will be of no value if all the current points of disagreement with the Israeli side are not settled.

'Arafat said negotiations are under way between the Palestinian and Israeli sides but that as of yesterday no progress had been made. He said these talks are not quite secret but we prefer them to take place away from the information media. 'Arafat noted that the points of disagreement between the two parties have increased recently. He said: The issues of water and security in Hebron and in numerous West Bank towns are facing deep differences and make the proposed dates for signing new agreements doubtful.

'Arafat said: Israel daily violates numerous points of the Oslo agreement, threatening the peace process and auguring danger. On Israel's determination to close Orient House and several Palestinian establishments in Jerusalem, 'Arafat said: Israel cannot do that, because it knows that implementing these decisions will provoke serious reaction on every official, popular, and international level. He added that Israel cannot do that with those who have official title deeds proving their ownership of these buildings. He said: With such decisions, Israel is increasing the pressure on us but these are mere threats that will not be fulfilled. He said: Israel must know that our patience has limits and we have many options. He added: Nothing can be imposed on us and I fear that the increasing Israeli excesses may blow up the peace process.

'Arafat Promises Extremists 'Will Be Stopped'

AU2408111895 Hamburg BILD in German 24 Aug 95 p 2

["Exclusive" interview with PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat by Richard Voelkel in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Voelkel] Can terrorist bombs — like the one in Jerusalem — stop peace in the Middle East?

['Arafat] The extremists on both sides have the goal of destroying the peace process. By these extremists I mean radicals on the Palestinian side and the Israeli side. They even want to stop the peace process. For this reason I have called the process the peace of the courageous and the bold.

[Voelkel] What will happen now in detail?

['Arafat] The correct solution is the speedy implementation of the peace resolutions of Cairo and Washington so that both peoples — Israelis and Palestinians — seize the opportunity for peace. The correct implementation of the agreements should not give the extremists any chance. They will be stopped.

[Voelkel] You are guarded extremely strictly because of the danger of attacks. Are you afraid of attacks, of death?

['Arafat] I am a pious man. I have survived many attacks and I have survived bad events: massacres, the siege of Beirut, the assassination of many of my friends, who fell victim to terrorist attacks that were similar to the most recent ones. I have gotten used to ignoring these dangers.

[Voelkel] Your daughter was born recently. Have you seen your child again?

['Arafat] Unfortunately, I have been able to see my little daughter only for 10 minutes in Paris, because my schedule did not permit me more time. I hope that

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peace will really come soon so that I have more time for my daughter and my family.

[Voelkel] Bonn has promised you further aid for reconstruction. How do you assess the Germans' help?

['Arafat] The visit by Minister Spranger has consolidated and deepened our relations. I expressly thank Germany for its help. I would like to seize this opportunity to convey cordial greetings to Chancellor Helmut Kohl in this way. Our relationship with Germany has a long tradition. A total of 300,000 Palestinians speak German. And we have a Palestinian community of 70,000 people in Germany.

'Arafat Orders Forces To Capture 'Terrorist'

TA2408075495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brigadier General Zakariya Ba'lushah, head of the Palestinian autonomy's security service, says that terrorist Yahya 'Ayyash is a false myth, and that he must be captured in order to put an end to that myth. He said such people must not be allowed to live among the Palestinian people.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that 'Arafat convened the heads of the Palestinian security establishment in the Gaza Strip and Jericho late last night to discuss ways of capturing terrorist Yahya 'Ayyash and his accomplices. Gen. Ba'lushah said 'Arafat has given them firm orders to quickly capture Yahya 'Ayyash. He added that they lack accurate information about 'Ayyash's whereabouts, but that if they received information from Israel, they would arrest him at once.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 24 August reports on page 2 that 'Arafat spokesman Marwan Kanafani "said that Palestinian Police has not stepped up their search for 'Ayyash but is doing its daily job of keeping the peace." He is quoted as responding to Israeli assertions that 'Ayyash is in Gaza by saying that "all we know so far is press reports. I know Israel will give us its information." The report adds that Kanafani reacted to Israel's arrest of Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) members in the West Bank with "caution," saying: "We have to see how accurate it is."]

PLO's Bal'awi Comments on Security, Peace Talks

TA1808143895 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 18 Aug 95 pp 8, 9, 22

[Interview with Hakam Bal'awi, official in charge of defense in the Palestinian Authority and of the PLO's security services, by correspondent Orli Azulay-Katz, at Bal'awi's office in Tunis "this week"]

[Azulay-Katz] When 'Arafat was in Tunis this week a rumor spread that he was murdered. As the person in charge of security, do you have any idea from where the rumor emanated?

[Bal'awi] I made some inquiries. It seems that German radio received the information from Israeli radio. As a security official, I can tell you that I do not rule out the possibility that there was an attempt to assassinate 'Arafat, but that the plan finally failed. We have information that radical Israeli elements plan to murder 'Arafat.

[Azulay-Katz] 'Arafat was at your home when the rumor arrived. How did he react?

[Bal'awi] He smiled. He has faced death in the past. We are believers and know that death, like life, is in God's hands.

[Azulay-Katz] Have there been attempts to harm 'Arafat since the Oslo accord?

[Bal'awi] There have been attempts before and after Oslo. In the wake of this week's rumor I recommended that additional security measures be adopted to guarantee his safety.

[Azulay-Katz] You met this week to approve the Taba agreement. Will this agreement lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state in your opinion?

[Bal'awi] First, there is no "Taba agreement." There is a memorandum of understandings which reflects the earnest intention of both sides to reach peace. The state of Palestine will emerge in due course, and I believe this will happen very soon.

[Azulay-Katz] Most Israelis do not think so; they rather oppose this.

[Bal'awi] I would suggest that the Israeli public pressure the government to achieve an understanding that will allow the establishment of a Palestinian state and to shorten the time needed for this too. Only the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel can lead to stability in the Middle East and bring quiet to both sides. The Israelis should understand that we are very serious about establishing peace. The strategy of both sides should be the establishment of a Palestinian state. If there is no equality between the sides, and if there are no two states without a Berlin Wall to divide them, there will be no peace, nor quiet for the two sides. This is a common interest.

[Azulay-Katz] What will be the capital of Palestine?

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[Bal'awi] East Jerusalem. This is an occupied territory which you should evacuate.

[Azulay-Katz] You talk of the state of Palestine whose capital is half of Jerusalem. You also talk of confidence-building measures, but although you undertook to do so, you have not abolished the Palestinian Covenant, which calls for the liquidation of the State of Israel.

[Bal'awi] The Oslo accord and the Taba understandings refer to our consent to abolish the covenant. The PLO's Executive Committee endorsed this, but in order to abolish the covenant it is necessary to convene the Palestine National Council. Reference is to 500 people, and not all of them currently possess permits to enter Gaza or Jericho. I assume that we will soon be able to convene the council and abolish the covenant. We undertook to do so.

[Azulay-Katz] In the current situation, when you cannot manage to control terror and Israelis get killed in buses in the heart of Tel Aviv, how can you convince the Israeli public to support a Palestinian state?

[Bal'awi] I naturally condemn the terrorist attacks, but I expected they would take place. This is the stage of the beginning of peace, and it is always the dangerous stage. I agree that every such attack is a trauma for Israelis, but as a Palestinian I too managed to overcome the traumas of Dayr Yasin, Kafr Qasim, and the likes.

Within this context, I would like to tell you a secret, something I have never discussed. I am one of the first Palestinians to have met with Israelis with the aim of advancing toward peace. Here, in this office in which you are now seated, I hosted official Israeli representatives in 1976. They arrived in Tunis secretly. The Tunisian Government helped me receive them. They arrived with Israeli passports, and we discussed ways to obtain peace. That was an uneasy period for both sides. 'Arafat knew of this, and I briefed him about the meetings. We did not succeed in making any progress then. My second series of talks with Israelis was between 1984 and 1986, here in Tunis too.

[Azulay-Katz] Who were those Israelis?

[Bal'awi] At this stage I am not prepared to expose their identity. I hope I will be able to soon.

[Azulay-Katz] This week the magnitude of the opposition to 'Arafat was exposed. Faruq Qaddumi boycotted the session and denounced the understandings. Other persons have also expressed their opposition.

[Bal'awi] In a democracy everyone is entitled to express his opinion. Some people are critical of the way 'Arafat has chosen to proceed. I consider myself one of the persons closest to 'Arafat, and I can tell you that he is working very hard to achieve this peace. There is nobody in the PLO who can replace him at this point, despite the criticism and the opposition.

'Arafat is the symbol for peace, for the establishment and development of the Palestinian state. Even those who oppose 'Arafat should see to it that he remains alive, because it is important for the history of the Palestinian state and the Middle East. So what if Faruq Qaddumi is opposed? Do Peres and Rabin not have an opposition within Labor? Are you not familiar with this story? For various reasons, Faruq Qaddumi has opposed the process from the beginning and is continuing to oppose it. Let me assure you that 'Arafat will garner a huge majority in our elections.

[Azulay-Katz] The opposition to 'Arafat is claiming that he has settled for too little. Behind his back he is being called the mayor of Gaza. It is being claimed that had he not been in such a rush, he could have received more.

[Bal'awi] This is precisely the argument that erupted at the time between Ben-Gurion and those who opposed the partition plan. I read every word said by Ben-Gurion; he opted for the partition plan and rightly so. The situation is not completely similar, because we opted for Gaza and Jericho first, but we knew that there is an agreement on the further clauses, namely, Jerusalem and the refugees. It is true that we have an opposition, but the majority supports us. We have entered the path of peace, and I can assure you that 'Arafat will win the elections in a big way.

[Azulay-Katz] What is preventing you from signing the understandings reached in Taba?

[Bal'awi] There is a problem with Hebron. Without Hebron we cannot hold the elections. Hebron must be under the autonomy rule, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] must withdraw from it just like the other cities, as stipulated in the Oslo accord. If the IDF does not leave Hebron, it will be impossible to hold elections there. Imagine elections being held in Israel everywhere except Haifa, for example. This is the main obstacle on the way to signing.

[Azulay-Katz] There are Israeli families in Hebron; what do you propose to do with them?

[Bal'awi] There are 160,000 Palestinians in Hebron and only 47 Jewish families. At present we are not dealing with the evacuation of the settlements. This will happen at a later stage. These families can remain there for the time being, but we must be in control of Hebron. It is about time that Israelis and Palestinians learned to live together.

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[Azulay-Katz] Do you regard this agreement, once it is signed, as the end of occupation?

[Bal'awi] The agreement, once it is signed, will finally signify that Security Council Resolution 242 is being implemented. This is the end of forceful occupation.

[Azulay-Katz] Is the next stage, as far as you are concerned, the establishment of a Palestinian state?

[Bal'awi] We are bound to the Oslo accord, where it is said that the discussions over the permanent arrangement, Jerusalem, and the evacuation of the settlements will commence in May 1997. The accord states that the latest date for starting the negotiations over the permanent arrangement is May 1997, which means that these negotiations can start much sooner. I believe that shortly after the IDF evacuates the cities Israel and the Palestinians will start the permanent arrangement talks. I can also tell you that these negotiations will be top secret and will be held far away from the limelight, and the public will learn about the results of these talks only after the understandings are achieved.

[Azulay-Katz] Is it possible that these secret negotiations have already started?

[Bal'awi] They have not started yet, but I believe this will happen very soon. We are going to create a peace that will put an end to the 1967 occupation, will solve the problems of Jerusalem and the refugees, and will bring about a Palestinian state.

[Azulay-Katz] Are you already planning the state-establishing stage?

[Bal'awi] Let me tell you precisely what kind of state this will be; it will be a democratic, multiparty state with complete freedom of the press where civil rights and liberties will be honored. It will not be a clerical state, because religion is an entirely private matter. Naturally, its capital will be East Jerusalem, which will be part and parcel of any agreement in the occupied West Bank. I am not daydreaming here; this is the real goal toward which we are working. There will be equality between the two nations, no more relations between occupier and occupied. We are two nations that are going to preserve the peace.

[Azulay-Katz] Do you believe Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will take an active part in the elections as a political party?

[Bal'awi] If this party wants to preserve its political life, it must participate in the elections. To judge by all the signs and assessments, it will indeed participate in the elections, and this actually means it is replacing the armed struggle with a political struggle.

[Azulay-Katz] What is your impression of your Israeli negotiating partners, Rabin and Peres?

[Bal'awi] They are very sensitive to the issue of peace and are doing a lot to advance it.

[Azulay-Katz] How do you see the continuation of the dialogue in case the Likud wins the Israeli elections?

[Bal'awi] Any future Israeli Government can board only one bus, and that is the bus of peace. Do not forget the Likud made peace with Egypt. True, that was Menahem Begin, but I am sure that if Netanyahu wins he will continue in the path we have launched. Whatever we hear from him now is only being said for propaganda's sake.

[Azulay-Katz] Over the last few weeks we have seen difficult scenes of clashes between settlers and Palestinians. Do you really believe that with such a load of hatred it will be possible to establish normal relationships?

[Bal'awi] I am convinced of it. What we have seen on television recently are images of fundamentalists on both sides. I prefer to recall the image of the handshake between 'Arafat and Rabin at the signing of the Oslo accord, or the pictures from the Nobel Prize ceremony. For me this is much more significant. Man by nature loves quiet and stability rather than violence. Therefore, I believe both peoples will overcome the extremists and will attain normal coexistence.

[Azulay-Katz] It is no secret that the economic situation in Gaza and Jericho is desperate. Do you have a solution for this?

[Bal'awi] Once there is peace the economic problems will be solved. Funds for investments and development will arrive, because such funds are meant for building, not destroying. Once there is cooperation between the two states, the two sides will benefit economically and everyone will be able to get up for work in the morning in security and calm. This is actually my dream, for the sake of both our children. I have devoted almost 20 years of my life in the PLO to this purpose.

[Azulay-Katz] How will the events in Iraq affect the Middle East?

[Bal'awi] Pay no notice to it, because it is only a passing storm. There is no reason to be concerned about it.

[Azulay-Katz] Why are you not evacuating Tunis, seeing that you have a base in Gaza and Jericho?

[Bal'awi] Tunis is our address; this is where the PLO headquarters are located. When the state of Palestine is established, we will close up shop here and move all our offices and personnel to Palestine.

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[Azulay-Katz] Do you have Israeli friends?

[Bal'awi] I do, but not many. At first I was a refugee; then I was an emigre. This is not simple. It takes time to forge relationships. My generation was destined to invest great efforts for the next generation. On both sides people have fought and have been killed in order for a new sun to rise for the two nations. The sun cannot rise with the occupier's feet treading on us.

Abu-Mazin on Tunis Meetings, Qaddumi, Armed Actions

TA2208171795 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 21 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, has said that the recent Fatah Central and PLO Executive Committees' meetings in Tunis affirmed the need to continue the talks between the Israeli and Palestinian sides and follow up the resolution of basic problems that have not been solved yet.

In a telephone interview with AL-MANAR from his Tunis headquarters, Abu-Mazin added that the climate of the Palestinian meetings in the Tunisian capital was positive and the Executive and Central Committees understand the difficulties which the negotiating delegation is facing and appreciate the efforts by the brothers in the National Authority, led by President 'Arafat. Abu-Mazin affirmed: In these meetings we approved what President Yasir 'Arafat proposed and there is full understanding between the two committees and their chairman, Yasir 'Arafat.

With regard to the absence of some Executive Committee members from these meetings, Abu-Mazin said: The absence of some members was expected. This is not new. Some of them are on missions and others failed to attend for personal reasons.

On Faruq Qaddumi's proposals and absence, Abu-Mazin said: We know that Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] has certain views and intepretations. We are not surprised by this. Qaddumi will not allow anyone to exploit his stances to undermine Palestinian legitimacy and the president leader, Yasir 'Arafat.

Abu-Mazin acknowledged that Palestinian relations with the Arab brothers, especially with Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, are very good. He said: We are eager to enhance those relations.

Abu-Mazin affirmed his total support and backing for President Yasir 'Arafat, and said that he is the symbol and leader of our people.

With regard to Israel's provocations and threats against Palestinian intitutions, Abu-Mazin said: The Arab institutions in Jerusalem have a reference point. That is Peres' letter to the late Norwegian foreign minister. Jerusalem is one of the important points of the final phase. Since negotiations over its future will continue, everything should remain as it is now until this future is discussed. Moreover, harassment of Palestinian institutions contravenes what we agreed on, and Israel's continued threats do not create a new and good climate leading to coexistence between two neighboring states living side by side.

Abu-Mazin condemned the operations conducted by some armed elements against Israel. He said: Such operations harm the National Authority and the interests of the Palestinian people. They are not aimed against Israel. We are building and endeavoring for peace. Anyone acting to the contrary, acts against the interests of the citizens. Palestinian public opinion rejects this course of action.

Ahmad Quray' on Outstanding Issues With Israel

JN2308153795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-al-'Ala', PA minister of economy, trade, and industry, by Yusuf al-Qazzaz on 23 August; from the "Today's Events" program; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Qazzaz] Mr. Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-al-'Ala', head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations: Good afternoon.

[Quray'] Good afternoon. You are most welcome.

[Al-Qazzaz] What are the key outstanding issues between the Palestinians and Israelis?

[Quray'] As a matter of fact, four pivotal and basic issues that may help consummate or scuttle the awaited agreement are still to be resolved. The first issue concerns Hebron. It has become clear to all that the Palestinian position toward the Hebron issue is firm and unchanged. It is impermissible and out of the question to see a Palestinian change of heart over Hebron. Hebron is a Palestinian city. What applies to other Palestinian cities should apply to Hebron. The flexible position we have demonstrated from the outset stipulates that we could accept interim security arrangements in a certain area in Hebron to ensure the achievement of an accord on the interim phase. Otherwise, there must be a redeployment [of Israeli troops] and deployment of Palestinian forces in Hebron as envisaged for other Palestinian cities. This is the first outstanding issue. The Palestinian position toward the Hebron issue is firm and

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unchanged. I hope that they [the Israeli negotiators] will understand that this position will remain unchanged, regardless of whether this would help consummate or scuttle the awaited agreement. Our position toward this issue will remain unchanged.

Another outstanding issue with the Israelis concerns the prisoners and detainees. This issue is basic, important, and principal to us. By signing the accord on the interim period, we would be turning a new leaf. It is understood that the accord on the interim period will be the most important step to implement the Oslo accord and the Declaration of Principles. This is because this accord will cover the entire interim period. This accord will be the one preceding the final step; namely, the negotiations on the final status of the territories. Consequently, this accord must turn a new leaf. All prisoners are part of the PLO. They are part of the Palestinian past struggle. They are part of the Palestinian movement. Consequently, they are part of the Palestinian Authority, with which Israel is dealing. It is no longer acceptable that a part of the PLO and the Palestinian struggle is dealt with while the other part, our heroic prisoners, is overlooked. Hence, our position toward this issue is also firm. I hope that the Israeli negotiators will show greater understanding of this issue.

The third outstanding issue concerns water, which is a basic issue. The significance of the water issue is derived from the fact that it would give us an indication about the nature of our entity. If we are unable to at least obtain a promise [changes thought] or a recognition of our water rights, we will then become a group that lives on alms, even with regard to water resources. Consequently, the water issue and our water rights constitute a key issue that is being defended with all possible strength.

The fourth outstanding issue concerns the drafting of the overall agreement. It must be clear to all that this accord will be the most complicated and difficult. U.S. Secretary of State Christopher has said that this agreement will be the most complicated in the history of the entire international diplomatic efforts. Consequently, its implementation will be difficult and complicated. All our kinfolk and brothers are required to understand this fact. This is because the difficulties of this agreement mirror the difficulties of the Palestinian issue. Nonetheless, these difficulties must produce a determination to achieve success and to move from this difficult phase to a final status that will be crowned by the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state, God willing. All in all, these are the four basic and pivotal issues that are yet to be resolved.

[Al-Qazzaz] Ahmad Quray', Abu-al-'Ala': As you have just said, these negotiations are the most difficult in the history of the world. The Americans and Vietnamese held negotiations in Paris over a five-year period. The Egyptians and Israelis negotiated for several years in Taba, which is the venue of the current Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. Will these negotiations lay the groundwork for the final status negotiations?

[Quray'] These negotiations must lay the groundwork for the upcoming phase. When a redeployment of troops is effected from Zones A and B, this means that a withdrawal from all populated areas will be effected. When it is said that Zone C will join the Palestinian jurisdiction, this means that it will become a part of the Palestinian entity and will be subject to Palestinian jurisdiction. When it is said that Jerusalem, the refugees, borders, and settlements will be discussed in the final status negotiations, this means that these issues have been deferred to the final status negotiations so that they may join the Palestinian jurisdiction or so that their status may be determined. I do not want to prejudge the outcome of the negotiations although our position on all these issues is well known. Consequently, the current negotiations will lay the groundwork for the future, for the future entity, and also for the Palestinian future. The territory of the [Palestinian] Authority [PA], where it will exercise its jurisdiction, will include the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The current negotiations, just like the final status negotiations, are important in that they will lay the groundwork and provide indications regarding the future. Likewise, the future implementation of the accord to be achieved will be equally important, if not more important. It is meaningless for us to obtain a right and to fail to exercise it properly. Hence, we must prepare ourselves. Similarly, our media organizations, particularly our radio station, must embark on an endeavor to prepare us all, people, authority, cadres, and officials, for the accurate, enlightened, and responsible implementation of the agreement in the near future. These are all indications of how the future will be. God willing, it will be a bright future.

[Al-Qazzaz] Ahmad Quray', Abu-al-'Ala': Do you think that the reports on the signing of the final agreement in Washington are still valid?

[Quray'] I believe that there is no change to this, although no final invitations have been sent for the signing ceremony. Nonetheless, no date has been set for this ceremony. The negotiations still have to overcome some difficulties. We still have this week, next week, and perhaps the week after before we can set a date for the signing ceremony.

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[Al-Qazzaz] Ahmad Quray', minister of economy, trade, and industry in the Palestinian authority and well-known Palestinian negotiator: Thank you. Let us hope for another interview.

[Quray'] Thank you. You are most welcome.

DFLP Denies Arrest of Activists in Gaza

TA2108090395 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 20 Aug 95 p 3

[Report by Mustafa al-Sawwaf]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] denied yesterday that its activists in the Gaza Strip had been detained or that the homes of some of them were raided.

The DFLP leadership urged the news media to be accurate in disseminating information as this might have an impact on the national mood, especially since the alleged detentions were linked to a DFLP statement criticizing the recent Taba agreement.

In its statement, the DFLP said that it reaffirms its adherence to its own right and to that of all political factions to express their position within the framework of pluralism, concern for the sovereignty of democratic practice, constructive dialogue, the predominance of our people's supreme national interests, and repudiation of anything that might recreate a climate of tension and sow discord among our people.

Wanted Hamas 'Terrorist' Captured in Gaza

TA2408070795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian security sources in the Gaza Strip say they have arrested a wanted terrorist from the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam movement. He was captured in an ambush while driving a car. According to a Palestinian source, he had planned an attack on the Jewish settlement of Netzarim.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 24 August publishes on page 1 a report that "Palestinian police yesterday caught a gunman they suspect was on his way to attack Israelis, after they followed him from Gaza and trapped him at a Palestinian checkpoint near Netzarim."

[The report continues: "Sources in the office of Palestinian military intelligence chief Musa 'Arafat said the Netzarim gunman, identified as 'Imad 'Aqil from al-Nusayrat refugee camp, is a known member of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, the armed wing of Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement). Police followed 'Aqil after a tip. When he was stopped at the checkpoint, he jumped from his car brandishing a pistol and grenade, and threatened to blow himself up. However, he later surrendered. Police found more grenades and a submachine gun in his car and believe he planned to attack the Netzarim settlement or soldiers guarding it. 'Aqil had the same name as an 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam leader killed by Israeli forces in Gaza early last year, but was not known to be a close relative"]

Al-Husayni Reacts to Capture of Hamas Squads

TA2308184295 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Aug 95

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni by Natan Gutman on 23 August; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent Natan Gutman heard the first reaction of the Palestinian leadership from Faysal al-Husayni, shortly after the capture of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists by the Shin Bet was announced today. Al-Husayni said that full security can be attained in areas where the Palestinian Police is in charge.

[Begin recording] [al-Husayni] If we govern and rule in full, then we have full control. Full control gives full security. Less government and less rule give less security. We are ready to do it in Gaza, but in other places, such as Nabulus, Jerusalem, or Ramallah, this will not be possible until there is a Palestinian government there that is able to do this job.

[Gutman] The squads captured today came from Nabulus and al-Zahiriyah. Can you promise that within a few months, when the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops transfer control over those areas to the Palestinian Police, you will be able to prevent and thwart the activities of such squads?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, I think we will be able to do it. Nothing is 100 percent, but I can say that this will initially be the minimum required, and then it will be 100 percent. [end recording]

Gaza Security Service Discovers Explosives Cache

TA2208094895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior source with the Palestinian Authority [PA] said that the preventive security service in the Gaza Strip, headed by Muhammad Dahlan, yesterday had discovered an underground warehouse containing explosives in Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood.

The source told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Palestinian security officials believe that the explosives were designed to be used in terrorist attacks

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against Israeli targets. The possibility that they were meant for use by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or Islamic Jihad terrorists is being investigated.

Hamas Leader al-Rantisi Given 42-Month Jail Term

TA2308171095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The military court at the Erez checkpoint imposed a 42-month prison sentence on Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader, today. Our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid reports that Dr. al-Rantisi was convicted of membership in Hamas and providing services to its members. Our correspondent points out that Dr. al-Rantisi was detained following his return from Marj al-Zuhur on 15 January 1993.

Israeli Forces Search Awqaf Director's Home

JN2208124495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation forces Sunday night stormed the house of Shaykh Sa'id Bilal, director general of the Islamic Awqaf Ministry, in Nabulus. Eyewitnesses said the occupation forces thoroughly searched the house, damaged its windows and furniture, fired percussion grenades in it, and beat up its occupants. Following the search, the soldiers arrested two of Shaykh Bilal's sons.

Fatah Activists Blamed for Shots at Nabulus Mayor Home

TA2408081595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The violent conflict among Fatah activists continues in Nabulus. Several shots were fired last night at the home of Mayor Bassam al-Shak'ah, but no damage was caused and no one was injured. Al-Shak'ah told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the assailant's identity was known and that he will be captured and given his dues. Our correspondent notes that unknown individuals last week fired at and moderately wounded an al-Najah University professor who had sharply criticized 'Arafat's policy.

Editorial on Peace Process, Jerusalem 'Incident'

TA2308151795 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 22 Aug 95 p 13

[Editorial: "Obstacles on the Road to Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Every now and then, the peace process faces unforeseen obstacles and difficulties as a result of acts of violence on the Palestinian and Israeli sides, including yesterday's incident in Jerusalem, which caused the death and injury of defenseless civilians. This incident was justifiably condemned and denounced, particularly on the Palestinian level, because it will harm the peace process. Moreover, violence and bloodshed are not in the nature of the Palestinian people and will not lead to a solution of the Palestinian problem.

One of the results of this incident was the suspension of the Palestinian-Israeli talks for a certain period, which may be long or short, as well as the imposition of a closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These measures have become almost routine in such circumstances, but the negative effects ensuing from yesterday's incident will go beyond this and impact on the entire peace process. In the long and the short term, support in Israel for right-wing and extremist groups will grow and support for the peace forces will decline noticeably.

All this coincides with the renewed, intensive campaign by the settlers against the redeployment process in particular and against the implementation of the second stage of the Oslo declaration in general. Yesterday, the settlers began their activities in the form of occupying "temporary" settlement positions, blocking highways within and beyond the Green Line, and confronting the owners of Arab lands, at whose expense they intend to expand.

Apart from this, one should mention the increased pressure on nongovernmental Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. Yesterday's incident provided an opportunity for radical groups to demand again the closure of these institutions. All these constitute obstacles and difficulties in the path of the peace process. The Palestinian and Israeli sides must persist in continuing the peace process until its absolute aim — realization of the Palestinian people's full and undiminished legitimate aspirations — is achieved, because this is the only guarantee for laying foundations of security and stability in this region and for putting an end to the waves of violence and counterviolence.

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Islamic Group Asks Hamas To Give PA 'a Chance'

TA2408101495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] An organization calling itself the Movement for the National Islamic Way issued a seven-point leaflet calling on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to stop violent acts and to give the Palestinian Authority [PA] a chance to negotiate with Israel.

It accused Israel of being responsible for the violence by "playing games with agreements," but it also called on "those behind military operations to understand the Palestinian reality and not to justify Israeli delays in transferring power and freeing prisoners... The last operation in Jerusalem is an alarm that everyone should hear."

The leader of the movement, Hatim Hasan, is a former Hamas member who was wanted by the Israelis, but accepted the program of the Palestinian Authority when Yasir 'Arafat took power last year.

The movement announced itself 10 days ago and is believed to have some 50 active members.

Gaza Water Issues Discussed

95AA0233C Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 11 Jul 95 p 6

[Report by Ahmad Mashharawi and Majidah al-Bilbisi]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Gaza Strip is located in the southern part of Palestine. It extends from Bayt Hanun in the north to Rafah in the south. It forms a coastal strip 5-7 km wide and about 45 km long. Its area is about 360,000 dunams [1,000 square meters]. Because of its location, climate, and topography, the Gaza Strip depends on rain and subterranean wells for its water supply.

Rain is considered the main source of water. The Gaza Strip is affected by the moderate Mediterranean climate and rainy, southwesterly winds. Despite its small size, the rain that falls in the Gaza Strip is not distributed equally between the northern and southern parts. The annual average rain fall is less than 150 mm in Rafah in the southern part and about 500 mm in the northern part.

Subterranean wells are the second most important source of water in the Gaza Strip. The people depend on underground water wells for irrigation, drinking, and home use. The quantity of renewable water from the various sources is about 60-70 million cubic meters. The water consumption deficit [as published] is about 110-120 mm; that is, the Gaza Strip has an annual water deficit of about 60 mm.

The Gaza Strip has 2,039 water wells, 82 of which are not being used because of the water quality and for technical reasons.

The water salinity is considered the most important problem. It is caused by the excessive use of water for home and agricultural purposes. The problem was gradually getting worse. It got to the point where salty water was being pumped to al-Nusayrat, al-Burayj, Dayr al-Balah, al-Maghazi, and al-Zawayidah village or being mixed with sweet water to reduce the salinity.

The other reason for the increased water salinity is that Jewish settlements are pumping large quantities of water from Israeli underground wells in the Gaza Strip and thus lowering the subterranean water level.

Palestinian water expert Dr. Yusuf Abu-Mayilah says that the salinity of the subterranean water in the Gaza Strip has increased to 2,000 parts per 1 million. Besides increasing the water salinity, the large number of sewage cisterns also is polluting the environment and spreading disease.

Dr. Abu-Mayilah adds that Israel pumps 580 million cubic meters of the 850 million cubic meters of underground water in the Gaza Strip.

According to a report published by the Association of Citrus Producers, water salinity continuously changes from one area to the other according to the annual rate of rainfall. Thus, the water salinity is higher in the southern part than in other parts of the Gaza Strip.

The increasing water salinity is negatively and seriously affecting the agricultural sector. It damages agricultural produce and thus affects the Palestinian economy. It also often causes kidney and urinary track infections.

Some of the suggestions to limit this problem are:

1. Using sewage water for irrigation, modernizing the water networks to benefit from every drop of water, and using modern irrigation methods in agriculture.

2. Taking immediate action to close the 25 wells along the eastern border of the Gaza Strip because water coming from the east gets mixed with the water in

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these wells before reaching the Gaza Strip area, and reopening the Wadi Ghazzah basin, which would allow about 20 million cubic meters of rain water to flow from the Hebron hills.

3. Drilling wells in the northern Gaza Strip, along the border line with Israel, and building a water pipeline from the north to the south to carry the water from these wells to the central Gaza Strip. Institutions and officials engaged in water affairs should launch studies, programs, and meetings to emphasize to the public the importance of water and the problems facing the Gaza Strip.

A delegation composed of leading figures and citizens from the Khan Yunis Camp yesterday met with some officials to discuss and find solutions to the shortage of drinking water through the drilling new water wells.

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Algeria

Link Seen Between Imam Murder, Paris Bombings

BR2308131395 Paris LE FIGARO in French 23 Aug 95 p 7

[Interview with Algeria's Brahim Younessi, member of the Islamic Salvation Front's "democratic" branch in France, by Veziane de Vezins; place and date not given: "These Crimes Are All Obviously Connected"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brahim Younessi, former right-hand man of Shaykh Sahraoui, who was killed on 11 July at his mosque in the Rue Myrha in Paris, denies that he is now the leader of the "secular" or "democratic" branch of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in France. LE FIGARO asked him what he thought about the series of attacks that has struck France.

[Vezins] In your opinion is there a connection between the killing of Shaykh Sahraoui, the attack in the Saint Michel subway station, and the bomb in the Place de l'Etoile?

[Younessi] It is obvious that these crimes are all connected and that they are the work of Algerian commandos. As far as I am concerned, once you have found the people who killed Shaykh Sahraoui you will have also found the perpetrators of the other two attacks. While there may be some sense in killing the shaykh — i.e., killing a man who advocated dialogue and peaceful coexistence with France — one cannot however see any political message in the last two explosions. If France's support for the National Liberation Front were the reason behind them, then the attacks would have taken place long ago.

The approach of elections in Algeria is not a logical reason either. Not only would violence in France have no influence on the ballot, but if these attacks were to continue, the government currently in power in Algiers would be determined to organize the elections in order to give itself legitimacy.

The only logic that I can see in this wave of attacks is that it discredits the FIS and also supporters of the dialogue within the power structure in Algeria, something which could incite France to give greater support to Algiers. It would appear, however, that the "ultras" are looking for the opposite.

[Vezins] It has been said that the suspect arrested in Stockholm used to frequent the mosque in the Rue Myrha and that he had met Shaykh Sahraoui. Do you know him?

[Younessi] I do not know him, and to my knowledge Abdessabour did not meet the shaykh. The first time I heard about Abdessabour was in the Algerian newspaper LA TRIBUNE after the murder of Shaykh Sahraoui.

The GIA [Armed Islamic Group] was created after the dissolution of the FIS in Algeria. It drained off all those who were seeking confrontation. Its members have said that they do not recognize the FIS. The GIA bosses in Europe are not known since they are underground. Their philosophy is not clear. There are groups which are totally autonomous of each other and which are susceptible to manipulation by any power source or any crank.

It is pretty much a known fact that these groups have all been infiltrated by the Algerian special services. Any group which wants to be violent claims to draw its inspiration from the GIA. As far as we were concerned, until these attacks, the GIA did not exist in France or Europe and its fighting strategy was supposed to be limited to Algeria. As for the "GIA General Command" (which claimed responsibility for the attacks in the subway and in the Place de l'Etoile — LE FIGARO editor's note), this is the first time I have heard of it.

[Vezins] What about the bulletin called EL ANSAR?

[Younessi] That is just a one-page newspaper in Arabic which claims to speak for the GIA or the GIA groups. What EL ANSAR does is dubious. One wonders where the money comes from for this sheet printed in London or Sweden, and which arrives by fax in the countries of Europe.

[Vezins] Do you think that the "Afghan commandos" which LA TRIBUNE named as the possible perpetrators of the murder of the Imam could also be behind the three attacks?

[Younessi] I do not rule out the possibility that the shaykh may have been killed by Afghan commandos, but I wonder what purpose his death would serve to them. At home, we linked the killing to the GIA communique that appeared in the newspaper EL HAYAT in May, condemning a number of FIS leaders abroad to death, including Rabah Kebir, president of the executive body responsible for matters abroad, Moussa Kraouche, president of the Algerian Fraternity in France, the son of Abassi Madahni, and, of course, Abdelbaki Sahraoui.

[Vezins] Has France become a logistical base for Islamist terrorist groups?

[Younessi] If that is the case then the French police is in a good position to know, since a close eye is kept on Islamists here. France is considered a land of asylum and welcome, not a war zone. Those Islamists who have been threatened all hope to come to France, as do those

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who claim they have been threatened by Islamists and who ask for asylum.

[Vezins] Do you think that these three shows of strength could be the first in a long series?

[Younessi] The question is finding out if the people who murdered the shaykh and the perpetrators of the other attacks feel that their objectives have been achieved. However, we do not know what they want, since there have been no clear demands explaining the meaning behind the violence.

Sahara-Sahel Countries' Ministers Open Meeting

LD2308135295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning in Jenane El Mithaq in Algiers, the second session opened of the foreign ministers of the Sahara-Sahel countries under the chairmanship of Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri. Taking part in this two-day meeting, alongside Algeria are: Mauritania, Niger, Burkina-Faso, Mali, Senegal, Chad, and Libya, which is participating for the first time. The eight countries will be discussing the situation in the region and ways of giving momentum to trade, economic, and cultural exchanges for an environment where security, stability, and cooperation will prevail. Foreign Minister Dembri opened the meeting and made an address in which he said in particular:

[Begin Dembri recording] Our meeting today is a completion of the work we started in Algiers in November 1993, and the meetings we held in Bamako in August 1994, and on the sidelines of the two latest OAU summits. We begin this second meeting of ours, encouraged as we are by the achievement of the first session which had enabled us to assess the numerous challenges faced by our region, to attain a consensus over the need to strengthen coordination between our countries, and to lay down foundations for a framework of cooperation aimed at guaranteeing peace, security, and stability in the region. [end recording]

Dembri Urges 'Permanence'

LD2408091895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0630 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The political event at the El Mithaq residence in Algiers is the second meeting of the foreign ministers of eight Sahel-Saharan countries. They are Algeria, Libya, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Senegal.

The aim of the meeting is to develop economic, trade, and cultural exchanges in the region. Cooperation in the area of security and political consultations between these states are also on the agenda. Participation in the meeting is still open.

Our foreign minister, Mohamed Salah Dembri, who chaired the meeting, suggested the conference should be given a permanent structure:

[Begin Dembri recording] Our Sahel-Saharan meeting is a meeting that is open to all who wish to take part in it, and it is not aimed against anyone. It is on the basis of this rallying watchword that we founded our first conference.

We all share the belief that our Sahel-Saharan family must give itself the necessary organizational structures to guarantee institutional permanence as well as the means to follow up on our own decisions. [end recording]

Paper: Crisis Not U.S. Priority

95AF0150D Algiers LA TRIBUNE in French 23 Jul 95 p 3

[Article by M. A. Boumendil: "Whereas Europe Increasingly Feels Itself More Affected by the Trend in the Situation in Our Country, the Issue of the Algerian Crisis Seems Not To Be a Priority for the U.S. Authorities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Much has been said and written about the U.S. attitude with regard to the situation in Algeria. Some commentators from the national press have often even imputed Islamist sympathies to Washington— supported in the United States by Annouar Haddam, a representative of the former Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] abroad. They have done this out of fear of seeing reemerge in Algeria the situation that prevailed in Tehran after the Khomeyni team took over power. No doubt there is some truth in all of this.

But there is also, if one looks at sources that are very close to U.S. diplomatic circles, much exaggeration regarding the Haddam case and the status being unduly ascribed to him. So the head of the parliamentary delegation is said never to have been received by any official whatsoever of the U.S. State Department, any more than he is reported to have spoken with U.S. officials.

Better yet, even the U.S. press is not interested in him, so most of his statements he has made to newspapers published in Europe, Arabic-language publications among them.

Concerning the grievances in certain Algerian circles with regard to the United States, which has not applied pressure on the man in the wake of some of his statements, such as the one following the deadly Boulevard Amirouche attack, the source quoted states that nothing

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could be done to him as long as he had not, one way or the other, violated the laws on the books in the host country on the subject. Annouar Haddam having thus never enjoyed the status of a policy spokesman in the United States, there can be no question of his disfavor as certain publications have a tendency to state.

As for his membership in the Armed Islamic Groups (GIA), the U.S. authorities have no tangible proof, not counting the fact that he has not been implicated in an activity that is reprehensible from the point of view of U.S. law. In truth, Algerian observers tend to overestimate the Pentagon's interest in the Algerian crisis. Everything in fact suggests that this file is secondary to the U.S. Department of State, even if the Algerian party can only regret it, since the United States occupies a fine position as one of our country's partners.

This, furthermore, is why the information reported recently by JEUNE AFRIQUE, the international weekly magazine, according to which the United States is reported to have taken part discreetly but in a major way in the most recent negotiation process between the Algerian Government and the leaders of the former FIS, deserves to be treated with a great deal of caution. According to this publication, the Americans are reported to have become convinced that the accession of an Islamist government in Algeria has now been finally ruled out and are reported to have used their contacts—preferring Kebir to Annouar Haddam—to invite the Islamists from the dissolved FIS to accept the Algerian Government's conditions to put an end to the bloody crisis convulsing the country. Such a piece of news, if confirmed, would tend to support the thesis according to which the United States is reported to have made a complete turnaround in its position with regard to the situation in Algeria.

In fact, it seems to us, following a series of cross-checks, that the U.S. State Department has never had the Algerian file completely under control. The question that the specialists who work on the issue are asking themselves is still to learn if within the dissolved FIS's Islamist wing there really does exist a moderate current that is sufficiently strong and credible to impose an acceptance of the rules of the democratic game on its ranks.

But, it is also thought in these circles that it is difficult to answer this basic question with certainty as long as Islamist leaders who are supposed to be the carriers of this current have no chance to express themselves and act freely. In any event, this is proof that U.S. diplomacy has not come up with a definitive position, which, in turn, proves that the Algerian case is not part of the Pengaton's priorities.

FIS Denies Supporting Zeraoul Nomination

MM2408094895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by Salih Qallab and Salah Jamil: "Salvation Front Denies Its Willingness To Support Zeroual's Nomination for Presidential Elections in Algeria"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, London — The Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] strongly denied yesterday that it is thinking of supporting President Zeroual's nomination for the next presidential elections, provided that he orders first the release of its detained leaders.

A former senior Algerian official said during a visit to Amman that the FIS had informed him that it was thinking of nominating Zeroual as its presidential candidate for the elections scheduled to be held on 16 November, provided that he releases FIS leader Abassi Madani and his deputy, Ali Belhadj, before the elections and pledges to hold impartial legislative elections.

The official, who was a presidential candidate after the death of the late Algerian President Houari Boumediene, pointed out that he is acting as a link between President Zeroual and the FIS through the two shaykhs who have been released, namely Abdelkader Boukhamkham and Ali Djedi.

The official, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, did not say whether or not President Zeroual agreed to the two FIS conditions. However, he said that FIS followers are thinking of supporting Zeroual in the next elections because they believe he is the only one capable of checking senior military officials, who are described are representing the "francophone" tendency hostile toward Algeria's pan-Arab and Islamic orientations. [passage omitted]

Popular Unity Party Leader Announces Candidacy

LD2308153095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Djamel Eddine Habibi, leader of the Popular Unity Party and member of the Transitional National Council, announced his candidacy in the forthcoming presidential elections.

In a statement issued today, Habibi said that his announcement to run in the presidential elections came to consolidate the electoral process and to contribute in building the democratic structure to rid the country from the multi-form crisis.

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Sixth Candidate Enters Presidential Race

LD2308135695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A sixth candidate for the presidential elections is Rabah Bencherif, founder of the National Party for Solidarity and Development. He is 44 and an agricultural engineer. His representative said he had received 6,000 signatures asking him to run for the presidency. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Daily Criticizes 'Lax' U.S. Stance on Bosnia

NC2408054895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0505 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has expressed its regret over the lax U.S. attitude to the Serb criminals in Bosnia. The Serbs are wreaking havoc, attacking civilians and the peacekeeping soldiers in flagrant defiance of the Security Council resolutions and UN prestige. In an editorial today, the paper says we cannot trust most U.S. statements, particularly after the farce of the safe areas, which were under international protection and were left easy prey to the Serb aggressors. Concluding, the paper says the world position on Bosnia will not change as long as the Islamic world remains in its deep slumber.

Writer Analyzes Western Attitude Toward Iraq

NC2108180995 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Aug 95 p 5

[Article by Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn: "On the Iraqi Developments: Do Not Persist in Hollow Talk; What Worries Us is the Prospect of a New U.S.-Israeli Aggression Against the Iraqi People"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What is happening in Iraq? What is our position on what is happening? Some Islamists and patriots have not yet fully absorbed the lesson of the "world war" in the Gulf.

We were foremost among those who opposed Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, but we refused to believe that the United States mobilized armies from 40 countries because it was a country of principle who opposed injustice and aggression against small countries.

The Iraqi Army withdrew from Kuwait more than five years ago. Nevertheless, a stifling blockade was imposed on an entire nation (after the fighting stopped). Hundreds of thousands died of hunger and disease in a historically unprecedented manner. Germany and Japan were not punished in this way. The United States and Britain were not satisfied with a blockade, but dictated an actual fragmentation of Iraqi territory. The Baghdad government no longer controlled northern Iraq or enjoyed freedom of movement in the south. Is it possible after all this that there are people who still imagine that the central issue was liberating Kuwait from occupation? What occupation?

It is now clear that the goal of the international coalition led by the United States, Britain, and covertly by Israel, was not to liberate Kuwait, but to enable the United States to occupy Kuwait and all the Gulf countries. The other aim was to destroy Iraq's human and technological capabilities and increase the pressure on Iran.

Do not tell me that the Iraqi leaders gave them the chance to do all this. Lacking this chance, they would have fabricated another justification to intervene and promote their own goals. They judged that their scheme to control oil resources should extend to Libya. When Libya did not give them a justification, they invented the silly Lockerbie story to impose a blockade on the Libyan Jamahiriyah, now in its fourth year.

I am astonished at those who sincerely look forward to a better Iraqi future if President Saddam Husayn's regime is toppled through any means. They believe that this will end tyranny and bring good to everyone.

How can these people imagine that the United States and Israel would topple the Iraqi regime in order to usher in democracy?

How can the establishment of democracy be the aim when the blockade imposed on Iraq in the past few years hindered the movement toward democracy and gave justification for the perpetuation of exceptionally cruel political conditions?

How can there be more prospects for liberty and democracy in a country where war has not stopped?

The aim of the brutal blockade, which is killing people en masse, was to provoke disturbances and seditions that would pull down the existing regime? How can any reasonable person imagine that any government that replaces the current regime, after all this hunger and the fragmentation of the country's territory, will be democratic?

A new regime will not be stable if it shows any leniency to the supporters of the current regime and its institutions? Even the expected successors are divided into conflicting factions and the only prospect is one of prolonged bloody repression. Nothing will reduce the violence and diminish the conflicts unless the "new government" in Baghdad agrees to dilute its official control over the various Iraqi regions and turn the country into a fragile confederation. The Kurdish north,

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the central part of Iraq, and the south would be one country on paper only, every region would have de facto independence. Such a catastrophe does not denote liberalism or democratic tolerance, but signifies the abolition of a proud, Arab citadel. All of us would lose if this citadel was formally broken up.

What we fear most is exactly what U.S.-British-Israeli policy seeks to achieve under the false pretext of trying to install democracy.

They are not fighting Iraq's current regime because they oppose despotism. Why do they reject what they term tyranny, dictatorship, and aggression against human rights only in Iraq, Iran, Libya, and Sudan but not in other Arab countries? These countries certainly do not have a monopoly on these things, particularly in the exaggerated manner described. They are, however, the only countries that consistently resist the schemes of foreign hegemony (particularly Israeli hegemony). They are the only ones that resolutely seek to build a political and military power that will help them maintain their independence.

We are not saying that the ruling regimes in these countries are perfect; they have many shortcomings. But the enemies do not fight them because of these shortcomings. The wars and pressure are the result of the other positive aspects in these states.

We seek to spread democracy over all our Arab and Islamic nations. But the democratic development we seek does not come through the enemy's guns and planes; it comes through strenuous popular struggle under natural circumstances, without war or blockade.

In the past few years, we demanded that the blockade be lifted on our people in these steadfast, struggling states; particularly our kin in Iraq who take the lion's share of oppression and humiliation. It embarrasses us that Arab people (primarily the Egyptians) lived happily and content over all these years without paying attention to the ordeal of our brothers, brothers with whom we shared "bread and salt" in better days. Did we not hear the cries of babies and hungry people over the years? What a shame!

However, our rejection of the unfair, stifling blockade imposed by the arrogant was not prompted by humanitarian reasons alone; it was a kind of solidarity with and admiration for the steadfastness of those heroic people who persevere despite the calamities. This steadfast and forbearing people in fact make sacrifices for our sake and withstand hardships on our behalf.

If the Iraqi leadership is holding tight to its secrets and keeping them from the enemy, it is like a man holding embers in his grip. The nuclear or biological capability in Iraq is an asset to all Arabs and Muslims. The Zionists know that this power in any Arab or Muslim state, in Iraq or Iran, constitutes a deterrent for their aggressive intentions. They make their calculations on this basis. We as well should determine our position and make our calculations on the basis of the same concept.

What is happening in Iraq now?

We will not indulge in gossip about our brothers, family conflicts, or the like (the kind of talk that thrives in most Arab states). Our preoccupation right now is the possibility of subjecting the heroic Iraqi people to a fresh military attack.

When the Gulf war broke out, we said that it was the first time Arab armies agreed to engage in an open war (under a foreign leadership) against another Arab and Muslim army. This never happened in all of history. The U.S. feared that its alliance with Arab armies might fall apart if Israel insisted on taking part in the strike against Iraq.

Until that time, and despite the involvement in a strike against a sister Arab state, "shame" precluded open and public cooperation with Israel to achieve that goal.

The situation has changed. The remaining signs of Arab and Islamic commitment have fallen apart. In the present threat to strike at Iraq, we envision missiles and aircraft taking off from Israeli bases and from bases in the Gulf states.

We were pleased by press reports that the rulers here refuse to take part in a military action to overthrow President Saddam's regime in Iraq.

This is good no doubt. But our friends [the rulers] seem to be preoccupied with arranging an operation to overthrow the regime in Sudan.

NPUG Asks Government Action on POW Killings

NC2308141395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1315 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Aug (MENA)—An official spokesman for the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] has stated that Israel's killing of Egyptian POW's in the 1956 and 1967 wars is one of the ugliest crimes in the history of humanity. The spokesman said that this crime reminds us of the stories about the incineration of Jews in the Nazi gas chambers.

The spokesman asked the Egyptian Government to take measures that will ensure that this matter is submitted to urgent international investigation, particularly since Israel is the country claiming that crimes relating to human rights are not subject to the statute of limitations.

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Israel itself kidnaps the perpetrators of such crimes and executes them, as it did with the Nazi war criminal [Adolf] Eichmann.

Now Israel is attempting to gloss over the importance of that crime by asking us to forget it.

The spokesman asked the Egyptian Government to take measures to guarantee that an international investigation will try the perpetrators of this immoral crime. We also demand that the families of the victims be compensated. In addition, the NPUG demands that the Israeli Government apologize officially to the Egyptian people for this crime which is contrary to all laws, norms, and doctrines.

Officials' Arms To Be Seized Before Elections

NC2408094195

[FBIS Editorial Report] The Cairo weekly ROSE-AL-YUSUF's 21 August edition features a 3,000-word report by Wa'il al-Abrashi, pp 6-9, in which he talks of "a bizarre and exciting confrontation between the Ministry of Interior and the People's Assembly's present and former deputies because of the automatic weapons they obtained during the term of a former minister of interior."

According to the report, the Ministry of Interior has sent a "warning" to the deputies saying: "Get ready to have your automatic weapons confiscated."

"To show its seriousness and determination, the ministry topped the list of persons to be disarmed with former interior ministers, primarily Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, leading security officials, and the sons of some former senior officials," the magazine reports.

Al-Abrashi explains that files reveal "many violations" that enabled entrepreneurs, company heads, businessmen, and police officers to possess automatic weapons "without limits," although the law prohibits it.

A total of 18,000 arms licenses have been canceled in a campaign to review the lists of arms licenses. According to Maj. Gen. Nassar Zahir, first assistant interior minister for public security, this means that "some 100,000 weapons will be withdrawn."

"Knowing that the battle to confiscate automatic weapons will not be as easy, since it involves former and present senior officials, their sons and relatives, and former and present People's Assembly members.....the disarming process started with a secret campaign," al-Abrashi says. He points out that investigations revealed the existence of "an arsenal of semi-automatic and other weapons owned by former parliamentarians and officials thanks to overindulgent generosity in the past."

Maj. Gen. Nassar Zahir points out that "it is prohibited to grant licenses for automatic and semi-automatic weapons and machine guns, which are considered dangerous weapons." When al-Abrashi points out that the deputies are "angered" by these measures, he replies that "nobody is above the law."

He explains that some licenses were granted in violation of the law. "We are rectifying a wrong and illegal situation," he says.

Al-Abrashi remarks that people link the measures with the approaching date of the parliamentary elections and Zahir replies: "We take precautions." He hopes the People's Assembly members will understand the ministry's position.

Reacting to the campaign, deputy Sa'id Shu'ayb says that withdrawing deputies' weapons in this manner "humiliates the MP before the people of his constituency."

A deputy from Upper Egypt, Mustafa al-Shafi'i, remarks that a "People's Assembly member, particularly in Upper Egypt, needs his weapon in view of the conditions there, terrorism, and family vendettas. Moreover, a deputy has enemies and rivals. He moves around the constituency. We are approaching the electoral battle and deputies are threatened."

The report notes that some deputies support the Interior Ministry's measure concerning automatic weapons and appeal to the deputies to help the Interior Ministry.

MB Members Dispute General Guide Position

NC2408072795 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 21 Aug 95 p 15

[Report by Ibrahim Khalil]

[FBIS Translated Text] Severe conflict is raging between the intermediate generation of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood [MB], members of which are approaching their sixties, and the young generation who joined the Brotherhood in the seventies. The intermediate generation believes in the need to set up an advisory council to be elected from among the members of the constituent assembly and the Guidance Bureau to run the Brotherhood's affairs. They advocated this after Deputy General Guide Mustafa Mashhur took control of the Brotherhood's affairs by entrusting most of the positions to the secret apparatus he chaired using the written authorization the general guide gave him to run the group's affairs.

The general guide has offered to step down from his post so that a new guide can be elected. But the

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Guidance Bureau found that the time was not right in view of the approaching People's Assembly elections. It also wanted to avoid any disputes among Brotherhood leaders. Hence, they devised a formula authorizing Mustafa Mashhur to perform the task of acting guide instead of first deputy.

Some other members of the dissolved Brotherhood want to elect Dr. Yusuf al-Qaradawi, a member of the constituent assembly, as general guide so that the Brotherhood can return in its new image.

Sudan

Al-Bashir: Country To Hold Elections Next Year

AB2308223295 Paris AFP in English 1104 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Aug 23 (AFP) — Sudan is to hold presidential and parliamentary elections next year, military ruler General 'Umar al-Bashir has said here.

State-run Omdurman radio on Wednesday [23 August] quoted the general as making the announcement at a rally in the west of the country on Tuesday.

Al-Bashir, who seized power in a coup in June 1989, did not give a precise date for the elections, and did not say whether he himself would be standing for president.

British MP Dismisses Human Rights Criticisms

EA2308170195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lord McNair, a member of the British House of Lords, who visited Sudan recently and acquainted himself with the facts about the situation there, has said in a report he prepared about Sudan that all accusations of human rights violations are imagined.

He said that his meetings with numerous state officials confirmed that what is being said by the western mass media distorts the reality of the situation in Sudan. In his report, McNair expressed his regret at the use of this matter by western circles, which he said was an example of double standards being used to incite international public opinion against Sudan without evidence.

He commended the government's efforts to establish peace and described them as being a credible way to achieve a radical solution to the southern problem.

Council Orders Release of Political Prisoners

EA2308182595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1500 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In its first meeting today after its formation, the Council of National Security issued a decree for releasing all political detainees without exemption [as heard] and directed the concerned authorities to adopt the required measures for the implementation of the resolution within 72 hours.

The National Security Council expressed hope that this decree represents a new (?page) that affirms the revolution's readiness to appease all the Sudanese citizens. The meeting of the council was presided over by the president of the Republic, General 'Umar al-Bashir.

The minister of justice and attorney general, 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu, said that President al-Bashir has hailed the performance of the security organs during the last period and [has said] that the salvation revolution [is] in its step forward for realizing the national comprehensive strategy toward the society of freedom, responsibility and (?Shura) [consultation].

President al-Bashir affirmed in his address that the revolution is granting freedom of individuals in balance with the safety of the society and its security, pointing out that the law is the only standard of practice.

He also spoke on the council's responsibilities in coordination with other security organs. The council also discussed political and security options in the country within the context of the changes of security leaders and [the] return of some elements from abroad.

Al-Mirghani Denies Deal With Regime for Return

MM2308135495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Aug 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Uthman Mirghani and Zayn-al-'Abidin Ahmad: "Al-Mirghani: I am Staying in Opposition, Will Return to Sudan Through Asmara Gate"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Cairo — Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party and leader of the opposition Democratic National Grouping, has denied reports released by Khartoum to the effect that he has asked to return to Sudan in return for recovering his confiscated property.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT and in a statement issued by his office yesterday Mr. al-Mirghani described these reports as "allegations and lies transmitted by the regime in Khartoum because of its feeling of despair." Al-Mirghani stressed that he is staying in the opposition and that his position is "no appeasement or bargaining, but, rather, uprooting (the regime) and judgment."

In his statement al-Mirghani said that "the return (to Sudan) will, God willing, be through the Asmara

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gate," referring to the agreement reached by Sudanese opposition forces at their recent conference in the Eritrean capital vis-a-vis escalating action to topple the current regime.

Responding to what has been reported by media services in Khartoum, namely that he has set the recovery of his confiscated property as a condition for returning [to Sudan], al-Mirghani said that he is committed to the position he has declared since the confiscation of his property in 1992. That is: "We, God willing, will recover our property once our kinfolk regain their full freedom and will. Our dispute with the (al-Turabi) regime was not over land and money. If that was the case, we would not have left the country and we would have stayed close to our money, or we would have returned to safeguard this money, which the regime itself has admitted exceeds millions of dollars."

Sudanese media services said the day before yesterday that al-Mirghani sent an envoy to the Sudanese Government, offering the possibility of his return to Sudan in return for recovering his confiscated property and allowing him to continue his role as a guide for the al-Khatmiyah sect. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Saharan President Reelected as Secretary General

LD2408105695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The ninth conference of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario] decided to reiterate confidence in the Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz as a secretary general of the Polisario front, the conference's spokesman Mohamed Ould Saydati announced.

In his statement to the press, Saydati said that a nomination list to elect members of the new leadership commission, which will have 33 members, has been completed. He added that the conferees had also endorsed the revision of the constitution, which stipulates the establishment of a national Saharan council.

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Bahrain

Seven Members of 'Sabotage Group' Arrested

MM2408112295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Ilyas Nasrallah in London and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in Manama: "Bahrain Arrests Seven Accused of Sabotage"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bahraini Information Minister Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa' confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that Bahraini security forces have arrested a sabotage group responsible for carrying out a series of acts of sabotage and arson to public installations, especially in the areas of al-Diraz and Barbar in Bahrain.

Al-Mutawwa' said that the order for the arrest of the group, numbering seven people, came from the investigating magistrate and that their trial will soon take place for crimes committed early this year. It is worth mentioning that Bahrain witnessed a wave of sabotage acts during the first four months of this year.

An official source at the Bahraini Interior Ministry said that security forces have finally apprehended the members of this group and that they made detailed confessions during interrogation, saying that they had formed a group to undertake operations of sabotage, arson, and demolition of public and private property in the area of al-Diraz and surrounding areas, in a planned manner and specifying the means and timings of the operations.

The source added that the group, which included five laborers and two students, had admitted responsibility for the attack on the Bahraini National Bank in al-Diraz, the burning and demolition of the water reservoir belonging to the municipality of the area, and the burning of three buses belonging to the Arab Club in the same area.

The source added that statements by the group members in the interrogation included the admission that they were planning to carry out further riots.

Kuwait

Defense Minister: No Iraqi Movements Near Border

LD2408094995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0646 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 24 Aug—Kuwaiti Minister of Defense Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah said here today that the state of Kuwait had asked the United States to increase by one the number of maneuvers agreed upon with Kuwait that will take place at the end of this month.

In a statement made to the newspaper AL-WATAN, Shaykh al-Hamud said that this request came after consultations with the United States. He added that batches of U.S. troops had started to arrive in Kuwait and that all troops were expected to arrive today in preparation for the joint exercises.

He reiterated that there were no unusual Iraqi movements at and south of the 32d parallel, pointing out that according to UN Security Council resolution 949 the Iraqi regime could not move its troops outside the parallel.

On the precautions taken in general by the Ministry of Defense, the Kuwait minister said that the Ministry of Defense had a number of training and maneuvers plans with "our allies previously scheduled according to a timetable which goes up to June 1996." He said that the exercises were scheduled for November, but had been moved up after consultations with the United States.

He added that the level of preparedness among various army sections had been raised, "but not to a highest degree because the situation does not warrant that as it happened in October last year."

Shaykh al-Hamud denied sending brigades to the northern border, stating that the brigade was only consolidated according to the request of its commander in order to implement a prearranged plan and to carry out its duty as a brigade. He stressed that "there are no Iraqi troops advancing towards the Kuwaiti northern border."

He said that following the recent developments a group of civilian infiltrators, among them a number of Iraqi military were arrested and the control along the wall brigade was tightened to prevent any infiltration at this stage. [passage omitted]

King's Speech Hailed as Sign Jordan To Help on Iraq

NC2408103295 Paris AFP in English 0958 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Aug 24 (AFP)—Kuwaitis on Thursday [24 August] hailed King Husayn's tough speech on Iraq, saying it was a sign that strategic Jordan would finally help put the nail in Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's coffin.

"King Husayn's speech expressed indirectly what the Kuwaiti people want. What we want is to get rid of Saddam Husayn and put the last nail in his coffin," Talal al-Sa'id, a pro-government MP, told AFP.

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"If we gain Jordan on our side, we will get rid easily of Saddam Husayn, as we all know that Jordan is the lifeblood of Iraq," he said.

Jordan is Iraq's main link to the outside world under UN economic sanctions imposed after the invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

King Husayn gave a nationwide speech on Wednesday, criticizing the Iraqi leader although he fell short of calling for an immediate end to Amman's economic ties with Baghdad.

Popular resentment lingers in Kuwait over Jordan's support for Iraq following the invasion here, although Kuwaitis welcome what they see as a change in policy from Amman.

Paper: Arabs in U.S. Should Shed Fanaticism

95LH0218A Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 22 Jun 95 p 25

[Article by Khalil 'Ali Haydar: "U.S. Arabs: in Brief"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab-Americans were not behind the bomb that exploded in Oklahoma in the United States. And yet, Arabs in the United States expect, and rightly so, that the slightest provocation will set off another round of hostility against Arabs and Muslims in America. But why is this likely to happen when those who planned this explosion were elements of the radical right in America?

There are, of course, racist movements in the West that are generally hostile to foreigners. In the United States, such movements against the Catholics, the Irish, the Japanese, the Chinese, the Italians, the Jews, the Arabs, and, of course, the negroes started many years ago. Actually, they started during the last century.

But are the policies, activities, and general mental attitudes of U.S. Arabs and Muslims conducive to putting out the fires of strife that erupt against them? Are their policies, activities, and general mental attitudes endearing them to the rest of Americans and making it easier for them to become assimilated in this melting pot? Did Arab-Americans, particularly Muslims, study the experiences of minorities in the United States and elsewhere? Did they consider how these minorities became assimilated there?

Of course not. The activities of Arab-Americans have not made it easier for them to become assimilated in America. Their assimilation became more difficult, especially after American cities were turned into conflict centers used by Islamic movements and some Arab regimes for rallying supporters and recruiting activists. These Islamic movements then proceeded to establish various fundamentalist associations, leagues, and organizations. All this will inevitably be disastrous for Arabs and Muslims in the United States and in the Arab and Islamic worlds as well.

How can a Muslim, Arab-American be accepted in his U.S. society when he hates his country, condemns its culture, and declares its imminent demise? Is a Muslim, Arab-American expected to be a good American and a good citizen of his country, or is he expected to be merely a rebellious politician or a radical fundamentalist who uses his U.S. citizenship as a shield and his U.S. material and political freedom as armor?

The Arabs of America have been speaking out for many years about the need to preserve their cultural identity and authenticity. Many of them, laboring under illusions of grandeur, have become quite conceited. They believe there is a conspiracy against them, and they also believe they are being persecuted. So much so, they have become aliens in their own country.

During the crisis of Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, support for Saddam Husayn among the multitude of Arabs and Muslims in the United States was unwavering. Meanwhile, support for us was limited to some Arabs and a smaller number of Muslims. Jews, on the other hand, were steadfast in their support for the resolute U.S. position against the aggression.

The publicity launched by black Muslims was so powerful that mainstream African-Americans either supported Saddam or opposed the U.S. intervention to assist Kuwait.

The Muslims' stubborn zeal and their hostility to the West created a general atmosphere of hostility that was so pervasive that it overwhelmed even Christian Arabs in the United States. In such an atmosphere, hatred for Muslims and Arabs is likely to continue in this country as long as they persist in such sectarian conduct.

THE HERALD TRIBUNE reported that threats were made against many Arabs and Muslims, and many Arab students in the schools of Oklahoma said that they were vilified, insulted, and falsely accused by their colleagues. They were told that "Muslims were criminals who had caused the explosion in Oklahoma." A 10-year-old student said, "Some people made fun of me and told me to 'get out of this country.' 'Go back to wherever it is you came from.'"

Many U.S. Arabs and Muslims are undoubtedly loyal citizens, and many of them have undoubtedly been assimilated into their society and are contributing to their country the best that their minds and their lives can produce. There are physicians, teachers, engineers, civil servants, and workers: thousands of men and

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women from Lebanon, Egypt, Palestine, Iraq, and other countries. The time has come for Arabs in the United States to realize that it is dangerous to be driven by national and religious fanaticism. The time has come for those Arabs to realize that movements such as the ones they have in the United States would not be tolerated in the Arab and Islamic countries themselves.

Is there a single Arab or Islamic country that is willing to give Christians half the freedom that Muslims have in the United States?

Saudi Arabia

International Push Urged To Oust 'Bloody Regime'

NC2408101695 Paris AFP in English 0950 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Riyadh, Aug 24 (AFP)—A Saudi government newspaper called for the first time Thursday [24 August] for an international push to bring down Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and his "bloody regime."

"We do not think that maintaining the Iraqi tyrant in power on the pretext that there is no obvious replacement, as the Western media claims, is acceptable," AL-MADINAH newspaper wrote.

"Replacing the despotic regime could not in any case be worse than the one in place," the paper said, calling on the international community to save the Iraqi people by putting an end to "a quarter century of this bloody regime."

"What is preventing us from combining our efforts to provoke the downfall of the bloody and corrupt regime and saving the Iraqi people who are paying an exorbitant price — their lives?" it said. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Opposition Appeals to Human Rights Groups on Arrests

MM2408104095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Aug 95 p 7

[Unattributed report: "'MAWJ' Statement Talks of Arrests in Aden"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The Yemeni National Opposition Front (MAWJ) said in a statement distributed yesterday that "political security forces are staging an arrest campaign in Aden and the other eastern and southern governorates."

The statement said that "scores of people have been arrested on charges of sympathizing with the MAWJ. Their families do not where they are being held or what the charges against them are, nor are their lawyers allowed to attend the interrogations."

The statement also said that "those who have been arrested this week include Najib Salim al-'Attas, 'Umar Husayn al-'Attas, and 'Abdallah Mahmud Dawud."

The statement called on "human rights organizations, Amnesty, and the various humanitarian organizations in the world to exert pressure to put an end to this terrorism, persecution, and humiliation."

Interior Minister on Aims of Security Campaign

MM2408103695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Aug 95 pp 1,4

[Report by Naji al-Harazi: "Yemeni Interior Minister Explains Aims of Security Campaign to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Measures Intended To Ease Entry Chaos for Foreigners, Not Directed Against Anyone"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa — Staff Colonel Husayn Muhammad 'Arab, the Yemeni interior minister, confirmed yesterday to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Sanaa is coordinating on security matters with a number of fraternal and friendly countries in the context of joint agreements to that effect.

In response to a question regarding the security campaign being waged by the Interior Ministry on illegal foreign residents he pointed out that the Yemeni authorities' actions come within Yemen's sovereign rights and enforcement of the country's current laws.

'Arab was speaking about the announcement published by the Interior Ministry asking foreign residents in the country to register their place of residence and supply proof of their legal entry into Yemen.

He said that there was evidence recently of some confusion regarding the entry of foreigners, including Arabs, and their residence and employment in the country, and that "what we want to do is make everyone comply with regulations and laws, as is the case in all countries of the world." He stressed that the measures applied by the Interior Ministry and subsidiary authorities were not directed against anyone in particular. "We do not mean to harm any visitors or residents whatever their nationalities."

The Yemeni minister added that scores of offenders had been apprehended, whose offenses were not just limited to illegal residence but there was evidence also of their involvement in illegal activities. He explained that some of these offenders were involved in criminal activities and others had contagious diseases, but he did not single out any specific political activity.

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In other statements to the press, the minister said that there are over 1,500 foreign detainees from Ethiopia, Somalia, and Eritrea, that the Yemeni authorities are organizing their repatriation, and that they had entered the country illegally.

He also stated that his country will not tolerate "anyone who tampers with Yemen's security," and that includes those who enter the country legally.

Col. 'Arab denied any link between the Yemeni Government and terrorism or terrorists, adding that "those who are trying to make these accusations stick are themselves aware that Yemen is absolutely not a terrorist [country]. We have proved that we are fighting terrorism."

'Arab indicated that the Yemeni authorities were able to apprehend four fishing vessels that had entered Yemeni territorial waters and were fishing using explosive charges. He did not divulge their nationality but explained that "their case has been referred to Yemeni justice."

The minister described some reports on security in the country and especially in Aden as nothing more than "crocodile tears" adding that there was security in the days of the Socialist Party because "the party's security [apparatus] would slit some throats and beat people up to force them to spy on each other, and no one could say no to them. Today, we say no to these methods."

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King Husayn Speech Announced With 'No Comment'

JN2408083795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Aug (INA) — Iraqi Television and the Television of Youth carried the full text of a speech delivered by King Husayn last night. The speech lasted almost 40 minutes, as relayed by Jordan's Television and Radio.

The Iraqi Television announcer introduced King Husayn's speech by saying:

In view of our confidence in our people, and because we know them to be enlightened and able to examine issues, draw conclusions, and learn lessons through their intelligent reading, given what they know about their leadership's clear policy in all areas, we believe that interest dictates that we present to you the full recording of the text of the speech King Husayn delivered this evening, as relayed by Jordan Television and Radio, with no comment from the television and radio of Iraq.

Hasan Said To Take Arms Program Documents to Jordan

MM2408091795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic Aug 24 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Husayn Kamil Believed To Have Given Information on the Existence of Enriched Uranium in Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — A source close to Gen. Husayn Kamil, the Iraqi defector who is in Amman, has denied that Gen. Kamil hid important documents at his farm in the al-Suwayrah area near Baghdad.

Another source believes that Gen. Husayn Kamil has revealed to the international envoy Rolf Ekeus the existence of quantities of enriched uranium in Iraq. The source, who is close to Gen. Kamil, said that he [Kamil] did not need to hide the documents relating to military industrialization programs in a steel safe on the farm. And that the information the Iraqi Government concealed from Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the committee entrusted with dismantling Iraqi mass-destruction weapons, was for more than five years in the possession of the Iraqi leadership, headed by President Saddam Husayn, who had full knowledge of Iraqi military industrialization programs. It was he [Saddam] who insisted on concealing this information until the embargo imposed on Iraq is lifted, in order to continue to implement his programs, which have cost Iraq hundreds of millions of dollars. Whereas Gen. Husayn Kamil objected to concealing this information, for the sake of getting the embargo lifted in order to rescue the Iraqis from their tragedy. The Iraqi president's opinion was always that Iraq has paid hundreds of millions of dollars for these programs, so how can it relinquish them?

The source said that the Iraqi president pursued a policy of maneuvering to convince Ekeus that Iraq had submitted all that was in its possession, hence Iraq would win the round and regain its previous status in the war industry field.

The special security forces took control of the Industry Ministry and Military Industrialization Organization buildings and Gen. Husayn Kamil's residence after his defection to Jordan, preventing employees from entering the Industry Ministry and the Military Industrialization Organization for two days in order to search for the documents and the information they believed Gen. Kamil had hidden.

The sources close to Gen. Kamil point out that he took with him from Baghdad to Jordan important documents relating to the biological, chemical, and nuclear military industrialization programs. The sources also stressed that all the engineers, scientists, and experts working in the Military Industrialization Organization and the Iraqi Atomic Energy Agency are acquainted with the military industrialization programs. They include Gen. Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, oil minister and chairman of the Military Industrialization Organization; Maj. Gen. 'Amir al-Sa'di; and Hammam 'Abd-al-Khaliq, minister of higher education and scientific research and the former head of the Atomic Energy Agency. The sources believe that Gen. Husayn Kamil informed Ekeus during their meeting in Amman of the existence of quantities of enriched uranium in Iraq, and that Iraq had concealed some long-range surface-to-surface missiles. It also concealed information about its development of these missiles and the supergun, with whose manufacture in the al-Fathah area near Karkuk Governorate, north Iraq, Gen. Kamil was entrusted. Sources believe that this gun cost more than $3 billion. UN Security Council committees dismantled the supergun before it could be assembled.

Hasan's Brother Hakim Said Arrested in Iraq

MM2308162395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Aug 95 p 5

[Unattributed Report: "Husayn Kamil's Relatives Arrested in Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — A Jordanian minister confirmed to AL-HAYAH that Hakim Kamil Hasan, brother of the Iraqi president's son-in-law Staff General Husayn Kamil, was not among those who fled to

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Amman. He said that Husayn Kamil and his brother Staff Colonel Saddam Kamil and their two wives Raghad and Rana, daughters of President Saddam Husayn, and members of their families, numbering 13 people, had fled to Amman, in addition to some companions.

The minister reported that Husayn Kamil had said that his brother Hakim and other family members were arrested in Iraq following his defection to Amman.

Pro-Kamil Officers Said in Kurdistan, Barzan in Geneva

MM2308161895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Rumor Puts Barzan al-Tikriti in Moscow; Officers Considered Loyal to Husayn Kamil Flee to Kurdistan"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Damascus, Moscow, AL-HAYAH — A highly placed source in the Unified Iraqi National Congress has stated that a number of special security officers and military industry engineers considered to be loyal to General Husayn Kamil have taken refuge in the "liberated" Kurdish areas in northern Iraq.

One rumor circulating in Moscow yesterday placed Ambassador Barzan al-Tikriti, President Saddam Husayn's half-brother, in Moscow, but an official at the Iraqi Embassy at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, contacted by AL-HAYAH from London, stressed that al-Tikriti is still at his place of work and "is not concerned with the circulating reports."

AFP, citing Iraqi sources in Amman the day before yesterday, had said that al-Tikriti "refuses to go to Baghdad and is taking the side of Gen. Husayn Kamil." Meanwhile, the UN spokesman in Geneva stated that "he is still the accredited ambassador of his country." [passage omitted]

One ambassador with good connections in Arab circles stated: "We heard that he was at his office in the embassy yesterday and today (Tuesday). The situation is not at all clear. We might learn the truth in the coming two days. I assume that much is going on. In other words, there are negotiations in the context of the (Iraqi) Government and the family."

Another rumor circulating yesterday said that Hashim Hasan al- Majid, brother of former Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, has fled to the areas under Kurdish control in northern Iraq despite the fact that he had confirmed his presence in Baghdad on Iraqi television last Sunday.

In another development, Iraqi opposition sources in Damascus say that Colonel Saddam Kamil last Sunday telephoned Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, the former chief of Iraqi military intelligence who has been in the Syrian capital for the last two months, from Amman. The sources said that Col. Saddam "made the call on behalf of Gen. Husayn Kamil, offering cooperation and coordination to bring down Saddam Husayn's regime." Al-Samarra'i assured AL-HAYAH that he has no problem "cooperating with any opposition party that upholds a national slogan for the downfall of Saddam and the establishment of a democratic regime." He did not rule out the possibility of a meeting between him and Husayn Kamil, adding: "But we await serious and effective steps."

Repercussions of Hasan Defection Viewed

95LH0252A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Aug 95 p 17

[Article by Kamaran Qurrah-Daghi: "Miserable Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The only conclusion one can make from the defection of Husayn Kamil, a most distinguished member of the inner circle of the ruling Saddam family, to Jordan and his request for asylum is that the worsening crisis in Iraq has entered a dangerous stage that could spell the beginning of the end of the regime. The regime could totally collapse or the ruling family could fall in a bloody conflict among its leading members.

The truth is that this year witnessed more than one sign of this deterioration. This has greatly weakened the argument of many people that the continuation of the "unjust" economic, political, and diplomatic blockade is only hurting the Iraqi people, while the Baghdad regime has remained strong and unshakable. The proof is that Saddam is still in power.

The defection of Husayn Kamil (minister of Industry, head of the military industrialization authority, official in charge of the Oil Ministry, and husband of Saddam's daughter Raghad) and his brother Saddam Kamil (official in charge of Saddam's personal security and his special prisons, known as "disciplinary courses," and one of a few who socializes with the Iraqi president) will have important repercussions, which will directly affect the future of the Iraqi regime.

Husayn Kamil is not just another Iraqi official. Saddam has trusted him to the point of putting him in charge of building Iraq's war machine. He also put him in charge of the most important national security files. These included the file of mass destruction weapons, which the United Nations is seeking to remove through the UN Special Commission headed by Rolf Ekeus.

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Less than a month ago, Saddam relieved his cousin 'Ali Hasan al-Majid from his post as defense minister in favor of Husayn Kamil, to whom he granted wider powers. A few weeks earlier, Saddam removed his half-brother, Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, from his post as interior minister, in a move that was also considered an attempt to strengthen the influence of his sons 'Udayy and Qusayy and their ally Husayn Kamil.

The official Jordanian position on all these developments is noteworthy. The Jordanian foreign minister himself announced the defection of Husayn Kamil and his group and the Jordanian monarch's decision to grant them asylum. He stressed that Amman will never hand them over to Iraq. He was probably indicating that Baghdad might ask for them, if it has not already done so.

In brief, we completely agree with the term "a dramatic event," which a Western diplomat in Amman used to describe the defection of the Iraqi' personality. This is the least one can say about it. It is likely now that a series of no less dramatic events and developments will follow.

However, the paradox here is that this serious exacerbation in the Iraqi regime's crisis is paralleled by a shameful situation facing the Iraqi Arab and Kurdish opposition. It is regrettable to say that the internal conflicts in the Iraqi opposition, particularly inside the Kurdish movement, and the efforts wasted in perpetuating them, do not give this opposition any reasonable grounds to claim that it has played a role in speeding up the deterioration in the Iraqi regime's internal situation and breaking up the ruling Saddam al-Tikriti's family.

This fact causes more profound regret because the Iraqi opposition's disintegration provides an excuse to international and regional parties to justify their wager that any change in Iraq can only take place from within the regime. Most probably, the aggravation in the Iraqi opposition's crisis, particularly the continued conflict between the Kurds (instead of the Kurds seeking U.S. support to confront Saddam's regime, Washington is forced to use its efforts to end a futile conflict between them), will prompt these parties to look for "saviors" like Husayn Kamil. It is a miserable Iraq.

Opposition Member Views Cooperation With Defector

NC2308065395 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 23 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jabbar, member of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, in London, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Abu-al-Majd] Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jabbar, has Husayn Kamil Hasan asked to cooperate with the Iraqi National Congress [INC]?

['Abd-al-Jabbar] No. This has not yet happened.

[Abu-al-Majd] What if he asks?

['Abd-al-Jabbar] This is premature. The INC explained its viewpoint on this issue in a previous statement. It asked all those who work with Saddam to abandon him. It even asked that Saddam himself quit power and leave the Iraqi people to decide their fate on their own. The INC also asked the world community to support it in this call and policy.

[Abu-al-Majd] But Husayn Kamil abandoned Saddam. What if he asks to cooperate with you?

['Abd-al-Jabbar] This is still too early, because we need to see more credibility for this man in terms of positions, programs, and actions.

[Abu-al-Majd] What kind of credibility do you mean?

['Abd-al-Jabbar] In his news conference in Amman, Husayn Kamil did not fully condemn the regime's practices on the local and foreign levels. The distance he drew between himself and the regime was not great enough.

[Abu-al-Majd] But do you not think it is in your interest as an opposition to cooperate with this man, especially as he has many secrets about Saddam Husayn and his military programs?

['Abd-al-Jabbar] It is in our interest to benefit from any development that could help overthrow the regime. But determining a position on every individual case needs study and deeper analysis.

[Abu-al-Majd] But will it need longer to decide upon a position on this man?

['Abd-al-Jabbar] Perhaps longer than other cases.

[Abu-al-Majd] Why?

['Abd-al-Jabbar] Because of the nature of the relationship that existed between him and the regime and because he was a basic partner to past decisions, practices, and measures. [passage omitted]

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U.S. Campaign Against Iraq Called 'Gambling'

JN2308124995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0710 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA)—An Iraqi paper has described the current American tension and escalation against Iraq as a merely American attempt, which is a combination of despair, risk, and gambling. In today's editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the sacrifices of the Iraqi people and their leadership's patience were not without avail, but produced a double force, namely, the force of construction in Iraq, as well as stability in the region and the world.

The paper discloses the reasons which prompted the U.S. Administration to escalate its hostile political, media, and military campaign against Iraq.

According to the paper, these reasons are the coming U.S. elections, which do not seem to be in Clinton's interests as a result of his quick failures in his domestic and foreign policy, as well as the third oil shock which the experts expect to take place in 1997 as a result of the scarcity of oil in the world market—a scarcity which will reach its climax in that year.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that if America is deprived of its media force it will not have any other effective factors to effect changes in or have political impact on the situation in Iraq. The U.S. campaign is fading and the observers have noticed that world public opinion is no longer interested in U.S. allegations and illusions.

The paper notes that Clinton's basic wish is to freeze the issue of Iraq and to postpone the process of deciding the issue of Iraq until after the elections. However, the situation is producing factors that work against the wishes of Clinton and his administration. Now that Iraq has implemented its basic obligations, the international and regional situation does not tolerate any delay in discussing the lifting of sanctions for a long time, particularly since other countries, such as Russia and France, have moved to defend their interests. Furthermore, the siege has exhausted other countries and deprived them of trade and political opportunities and these countries cannot endure U.S. pressures forever.

Regarding oil and its usage, AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that America has realized that to prevent a third oil shock it has to fully control the Iraqi market and to use the huge Iraqi reserve to tackle this crisis. Thus, the paper adds, America exerted extraordinary efforts to destroy Iraq's steadfastness and resistance so as to control it before 1995 because shock absorbing needs no less than a year to rehabilitate the Iraqi facilities on one hand and to adjust production quotas on the other.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Within the framework of this plan, America imagined that it would be able to control Iraq's oil in 1994 at the very most through its political control over it. This explains the utter American madness in 1994 and 1995 resulting from the bitter feeling of failure in Iraq. However, the Iraqi people, who defend their national independence and dignity, remain steadfast in the face of the barbaric siege, and rally around President Saddam Husayn, prevented America from having access to the only guarantee which will stop the third oil shock and from using this shock to dictate its conditions on the entire world.

Concluding its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: We must reiterate the fact that Iraq's steadfastness not only protected the independence, national honor, and the future of its sons and the interests of the Arab nation as well, but has enhanced Iraq's position and strengthened its regional and international roles by forcing major powers to admit that Iraq holds basic keys to major and serious problems in the world.

Paper on Purposes of Current U.S. Campaign

JN2208203295 Baghdad INA in English
1110 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 22, INA—The ongoing sudden flurry of American anti-Iraq diplomatic and military activity puts in question the very motives of, to say the least, this poorly staged twist in Washington's policy towards Baghdad, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said in an article on Tuesday.

The Pentagon says Iraq started five weeks ago to move its army first to the north and later to the south. Despite admitting the Iraqi military movements did not come so close to the Kuwaiti border, the Pentagon has reacted by sending troops reinforcements to Kuwait refurbishing their armada and alerting their 2,700-strong-man force in the Gulf region, the paper added.

Surprisingly enough, the U.S. top brass had failed to raise the alarm five weeks before when the alleged Iraqi military movements started. The U.S. diplomatic and military response was sparked off by the defection of Husayn Kamil to Jordan only last week. All of a sudden, Iraq is posing once more a serious threat to Kuwait and this time Jordan too, let alone the U.S. national security.

Iraq has denied U.S. allegation. Pressmen, diplomats, and observers have noticed no sign of unusual military movements in the capital or elsewhere in Iraq. Life is normal and Husayn's Kamil's claims at his press conference that Baghdad was inundated with the Republican Guards turned out to be an evident ploy.

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Why should the U.S. Administration overreact to a situation which is described even by those directly concerned, like Kuwait, as not very worrying?

Obviously, the U.S. is trying to seize Kamil's case by mounting pressure on Iraq counting on some calculations that would in no time prove invalid. U.S. officials are chewing over what they think a crack in Iraq's internal front created by Kamil's defection. Washington seems to be applying a wornout tactic to the case of Iraq, namely, "when your enemy is on defensive, be more on the offensive ".

If Washington is planning to tighten the psychological noose, it is worth remembering that Iraqis are so seasoned and trouble- hardened that they would soon weather the storm. If the U.S. Administration is seeking to augment Iraq's isolation, Baghdad has already coped with five years of U.S-engineered diplomatic and economic isolation.

Baghdad is soaked to the skin and can not offer to worry about a sudden shower of persistent of U.S. enmity.

Less than two weeks since Kamil's defection to Jordan have revealed the traces of an orchestrated campaign by the U.S. to bring Iraq to its knee and keep the UN sanctions in place.

Kamil is now certain to be a basic pillar in Washington's current diplomatic and military upsurge and it is only legitimate that everything was prepared in advance.

With only less than a month for the review of the sanctions against Iraq, the U.S. seems to have prepared the Kamil-championed incident to avert a situation which would have certainly been both difficult and embarrassing for Madeleine Albright at the Security Council.

So far, Washington has failed to win support by its former allies, Western or regional. Jordan has officially announced it will not cut economic ties with Iraq and Washington's tricks in the Gulf are not palatable to Cairo either, the paper concluded.

Al-Majali Rejects West's 'Pressures' on Jordan

MM2208114295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Aug 95 p 5

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam: "Al-Majali Rejects Using Jordan as a Base for Change in Iraq, Hopes for Pluralistic Democracy in Baghdad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Amman — Former Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said that Iraq "is going through a very difficult phase in its history" and hoped that "a pluralistic democracy would start in Baghdad." He said in an interview with AL- HAYAH that "the official Jordanian view regarding change in Iraq is that it should be change from within, in the regime's framework." He stated that the opening of a dialogue between the Iraqi regime, the Shiites, and the Kurds "is possible," stressing the importance of not providing General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the Iraqi president's son-in-law who defected to Jordan, with the opportunity of influencing the course of internal events in that country. He expressed the view that Husayn Kamil's talk, during his press conference in Amman, of deposing the Iraqi regime was "wrong" and he should be "controlled," saying: "He must conform and we must compel him to do so."

Al-Majali declared that he considered Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir's insistence on non-interference in Iraq's internal affairs "a rectification" of what happened. He criticized the Western approach which "went beyond the limits set in the Security Council's resolutions and linked the lifting of the sanctions to deposing Saddam Husayn," as, in his view, Iraq "had implemented these resolutions."

In reply to a question regarding Husayn Kamil's press conference, al-Majali said: "Any political refugee has the right to express himself and explain the reasons for leaving his country. However, for him to take advantage of a country for personal reasons with a view to influencing his country's internal affairs is not permitted internationally or nationally. I believe something must have happened for him to be allowed to hold the press conference (in Amman) to make his statement. In the first part of the conference he listed his reasons for leaving, but when reporters quizzed him and asked embarrassing and provocative questions, he went further, to other political and other matters, and this is something difficult to control." When asked if he believed that Husayn Kamil would be brought under control, he answered: "Jordan has allowed him to stay and he must conform to the rules; we must make sure he complies." He indicated that the Jordanian Government had clarified that "there is no change in its official position on Iraq."

He remarked that "the West is insisting that, even if Iraq complies with the Security Council resolutions, the lifting of the sanctions will not take place unless there is a change of regime. This is interference in the country's internal affairs." Al-Majali was asked: "If that were the U.S. position, would Jordan allow Husayn Kamil to be used as a tool, after he declared his intention to topple the Iraqi regime?" He answered: "That is definitely not possible. Jordan is Iraq's main lifeline, which it has safeguarded. It successfully complied with the Security Council resolutions, and has at the same time provided the Iraqi people with whatever it could."

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Seeking to interpret Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al- Kabariti's statement on "opening a dialogue with Iraq" during King Husayn's visit to Qatar and the present talk about change in Iraq, the former Jordanian prime minister said: "There is no contradiction, his majesty the king always said since the beginning of the Gulf War and after it that Jordan was on the side of the Iraqi people, and always urged freedom and democracy. Perhaps Husayn Kamil's defection will cause some kind of a shock inside [Iraq] that would result in a pluralistic democracy."

He went on to say that "there is only one party in Iraq and it does not allow other parties to move. The world has changed, and parties and free elections must be allowed. This is what we hope and we do not interfere in anybody's internal affairs, but believe in freedom and democracy and would like other nations to enjoy freedom and democracy." When asked if this meant that change should come from within and in the framework of the Iraqi regime, he replied: "Of course, but if the Iraqi people cannot or do not want to, that is up to them."

He ruled out Western pressures to use Jordan as a base for change in Iraq and said: "We will not allow Jordan to be used against any Arab side."

Commentary Criticizes Jordan's View of Ties

JN2008200095 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1725 GMT 20 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq did not need the malicious U.S. crusade to underline its profound and highly principled stands with regard to the issue of inter-Arab cooperation and construction. Iraq is eager to ward off fishing in murky waters. It is eager to avoid the existence of such waters in the first place. Iraq is alert and vigilant in order to preclude penetration and safeguard healthy ideas. It is shouldering its pan-Arab responsibilities, which is the height of honor.

The fraternal Jordanians have cited figures to argue against the ideas proposed to them by enemies. These figures have continued to dictate the maintenance of pan-Arab ties regardless of the propaganda and the false promises made, and despite the tough circumstances created by the devastating aggression and genocidal blockade. Nonetheless, figures by themselves have never been and will never be at the heart of the arguments of Arabs in Jordan and elsewhere. Figures will not the overriding factor in this regard, because other facts underline the inseparable pan-Arab interests. Pan-Arab interests cannot be promoted, entrenched, and consecrated unless inter-Arab ties are fraternal, strong, and expansive. Circumstantial considerations or parochial interests should not be allowed to prevail over pan-Arab interests.

A firm awareness of this fact must be coupled with an awareness of the imminent dangers, and also of the U.S. plans to drive wedges between Arabs. The United States aims to cause injury, create adverse realities, and bring about a deterioration in the Arab state of affairs. Still, awareness of all of the above must be coupled with a courageous and clear decision to prevent the United States from achieving its purposes by fishing in murky waters. Such a decision, which has to be firm and wholehearted, must be made in the initial period. That is, there is a need for a salvation process. The Arabs, all Arabs, must be involved in such a process. It is high time we did not serve as docile tools in the hands of the nation's enemies. We should not serve as fire or fuel. Otherwise, there will be a conflagration, God forbid. Yes, it is high time pan-Arab facts forced themselves and slapped the impudent American face millions of times.

Baghdad TV Reports Ekeus Amman News Conference

JN2308141995 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1125 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, said in a news conference in Amman today that the latest step of presenting information on the biological program made by the Iraqi higher political leadership would expedite a Security Council resolution on ending the oil embargo on Iraq.

He added that a Special Commission team specialized in biological issues is in Baghdad and is meeting with Iraqi scientists and engineers who are fully cooperating with the team.

Ekeus hailed the statement issued by the joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Iraq Command the day before yesterday on continuing cooperation with the Special Commission for an indefinite period.

He said that due to the large amount of information presented by Iraq during his latest visit to Baghdad, it would be difficult to estimate the time needed to review it, however, the Special Commission will do its best to accelerate this task. Ekeus added that he may return to Baghdad by the end of July or early next October.

Asked if the United States would obstruct lifting the siege regardless of what Iraq would do and regardless of its commitment to international resolutions, Ekeus said that all the Security Council members without exception will not have any other choice.

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Paper Criticizes Pelletreau Tour, 'Conspiracy'

JN2308113095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA)—The newspaper BABIL denounced the shuttle tour by Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state, to the region and his public discussions with the Al Sa'ud and al-Sabah families of plans for a blatant conspiracy against Iraq which seeks to strangle it and block any finance, food, or medicine from reaching its people.

In an article today, the paper says: The U.S. devil thinks the United States' great military resources and influence in the era of its hegemony in the world allow her to exercise, without any restraint, its conduct that confirms its triviality and violation of all ethics and norms of logical conduct in the international environment.

The paper wonders: Why is Robert Pelletreau reviving Kissinger's ill-reputed shuttle tours, and why is he travelling to Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait to ignite the fire of sedition against the steadfast, besieged Iraq?

The paper notes the anti-Iraq military and propaganda escalation. It says: Observers of the United States' position against Iraq have only the feelings of denunciation, contempt, and fury to demonstrate against this flagrant aggressive conduct which reflects the savage rancor of the cowboys.

Source Holds Lebanon Responsible for Diplomat's Death

JN2308112095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA)—Iraq has called on Lebanese authorities to conduct a joint investigation to determine the cause and circumstances of the death of Iraqi Diplomat Khalid 'Alwan al-Juburi, third secretary at the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut, who died on 29 June 1995.

In a statement to INA on the circumstances surrounding the death of the Iraqi diplomat in Lebanon, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said that what was reported in the Lebanese death certificate and the memorandum issued by the Lebanese Embassy in Amman was untrue.

He said: A coroner examination of the body of the Iraqi diplomat conducted in Baghdad has revealed that the cause of death was tuberculous meningitis and an inflammation of the brain. This contradicts what was reported in the Lebanese death certificate, that the death was caused by a cardiac arrest and hypertension in the brain. A memorandum by the Lebanese Embassy in Amman, numbered 341 of 28 June 1995, issued one day before the diplomat's death, notes the presence of water in the brain, swelling in the bladder, and paralysis in the limbs.

The spokesman says there was a lack of precise diagnosis of the Iraqi diplomat's health condition at the time, deliberate negligence on the part of the competent Lebanese authorities, and lack of health care and treatment. He also said the Iraqi diplomat was left for a very long time in jail and was not moved to a hospital despite the fact that he was in semi-coma and was unable to move his lower limbs.

The spokesman said the Lebanese authorities moved Iraqi Diplomat Khalid 'Alwan al-Juburi to a hospital only after the Iraqi Foreign Ministry intervened. He was moved while he was in coma, with his hands and legs tied to his bed.

The spokesman added that the deliberate negligence in providing the required treatment for the diplomat contradicts the most basic humanitarian and international norms and principles and is a serious violation of the most basic human rights.

The spokesman said the Government of the Republic of Iraq holds the Lebanese Government and the Syrian regime fully responsible for the ugly crime committed against the Iraqi diplomat. It also holds them responsible for the consequences of their illegal and inhuman conduct.

Iraq also urged the Lebanese Government to release the other Iraqi diplomats who are detained in Lebanon in violation of the Vienna Agreement of 1961 on diplomatic relations.

Libyan Request To Convene Defense Council Supported

NC2308172195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—Iraq today informed the Arab League Secretariat that it supports Libya's call to convene an emergency session of the Joint Arab Defense Council to discuss events in the region.

This came in a memorandum submitted by Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, today.

Libya sent a memorandum to the Arab League on Thursday [17 August] in which it asked for an emergency meeting of the Joint Arab Defense Council.

It is noteworthy that in the case where two or more countries approve Libya's request, the Council can

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convene within a month from the date the memorandum was submitted.

Kurdistan Group Denies Quitting National Congress

MM2408103195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Aug 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Islamic Movement Has Not Frozen Its Membership of Iraqi Congress"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The Islamic Movement in Iraqi Kurdistan has stressed that it is "still a party with a political, military, and jihad entity, and a strong and effective member of the Unified Iraqi National Congress."

Shaykh 'Uthman 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the movement's general guide, stressed in a "clarification" to the Congress Executive Council that the movement has not requested the suspension of its membership of the Congress. But its representive requested that his membership of the Executive Council be suspended.

As is known, a spokesman for the movement in London said that the movement has decided to suspend its membership of the Congress.

The clarification said that the Islamic Movement "urges the presidential Council and the Executive Council to convene the second conference in view of local, regional, and international changes. And in order to reexamine the Congress' basic structure and offices."

The movement added that it is "urging the Congress Executive Council to be fair and allow it to be represented inside the Congress at all levels, especially with regard to powers and the movement's representation in organizational institutions, especially as regards banking issues."

Kurdish Parties To Meet on Developments in Iraq

NC2208161195 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kurdistan Socialist Party [KSP] and the Assyrian Democratic Party [ADP] have accepted the proposal proposed by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] to the Kurdistan Front parties. The PUK called on the Kurdish parties to convene an emergency meeting of the Kurdistan Front's political leadership to study developments in Iraq and the region.

The KSP and ADP expressed their readiness to take part in this meeting for the sake of overthrowing the dictatorial regime in Baghdad.

Saddam Chairs Meeting Attended by Several Ministers

JN2308124595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has presided over a meeting that brought together Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan; the ministers of finance, trade, oil, and industry and minerals; the governor of the Central Bank of Iraq; and several officials in the industrial sector and the Military Industrialization Organization.

The meeting was attended by Presidential Office Chief Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi.

'Izzat Ibrahim Addresses Army Awards Ceremony

JN2208202995 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On behalf of President Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, decorated a group of active service and retired fighters in appreciation of their heroic stands and distinguished valor in the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah battle [war with Iran] and the immortal Mother of Battles.

The medal awarding ceremony was opened by a Koranic recitation followed by a reading of the opening chapter of the Koran to invoke mercy for the souls of the best of all, the martyrs of Iraq and the Arab nation.

Staff Gen. 'Izzat Ibrahim said in a speech that this decoration of the brave fighters reflects the appreciation and pride of the Iraqi people, Arab nation, and martyrs for their brave stands and generous sacrifices throughout decades of jihad and for maintaining the flag of Iraq—the flag of God is great—fluttering high loftily, proudly, and gloriously.

The vice chairman added that those who were martyred for the sake of God and the homeland were truly fortunate, for the martyrs face the day of judgment with hearts of assurance and Paradise will be their immortal abode. He said: As for the mujahidin who have not won the honor of martyrdom, they will be honored by the credit God gives to martyrs because they have adhered to their principles and values and defended their people, nation, dignity, and honor. Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with God; of them some have died and some still wait; but they have never changed their determination in the least. [Koranic verse]

Addressing the honored fighters, 'Izzat ibrahim said: You have not changed your principles and continue to

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defend the border, warding off the evil of evildoers by your blood and souls.

The deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces stressed that the Iraqis' valor is principled, through which they have expressed their profound faith in principles. He added: That faith has been entrenched deep inside their souls. The more revered and honest the principles are, the higher and more generous the sacrifices must be. He stressed that our valiant army has proved in all its battles and militant stands that it is the Arab nation's solid fence and impregnable shield. Therefore, most of this gallant army's men have won the tribute of leader, symbol, and mujahid Saddam Husayn, who will remain the Arab nation's voice and hope emerging from the Iraq of Arabism and Islam, the Iraq of history and civilization, the Iraq of faith, the Iraq of the Arab nation' vanguards and defenders.

Staff Gen. 'Izzat Ibrahim congratulated the awarded fighters, wishing them continued glory and constant victory against the enemies of the Arab nation under the leadership of its knight, President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

The awarding ceremony was attended by the Army chief of staff and his aides.

Minister on $85 Billion Loss in Oil Exports

JN2208091195 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Aug 95 p 24

[Report by AL-RA'Y correspondent in Baghdad]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi Oil Minister Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid yesterday said that from 6 August 1990 until the end of July 1995, Iraq lost $85 billion in revenues as a result of the ban on the export and sale of its oil products.

In statements to Jordanian journalists, Rashid said: Considering that the current price of oil is $15 per barrel, we are losing around $50 million a day.

It is noteworthy that according to an OPEC agreement, Iraq had an export quota of 3.5 million barrels a day before the embargo. Once the embargo is lifted, Iraq is expected to produce around 2 million barrels a day, to be raised at a later stage to 3.5 barrels a day. The price of oil in the early 1990's was over $18.

People Urged To Help Poor Instead of Pilgrimage

JN2108210495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0927 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Aug (INA)—Iraqi men of religion have issued a fatwa stating that the heavenly reward for helping the poor and needy during the unjust embargo is no less than the reward for performing the minor pilgrimage to Mecca this year.

In statements made today, they asserted that what applied to last year's pilgrimage, which was postponed because of the Saudi Authorities' refusal to allow Iraqi pilgrims to perform the pilgrimage rites, also applies to the minor pilgrimage.

The embargo conditions and the Saudi Authorities' refusal to issue entry visas have prevented pilgrims from travelling to the holy land to perform the pilgrimage and minor pilgrimage rites for this year.

Iraq has repeatedly called on Islamic states to release Iraqi funds frozen in their banks in order to pay for pilgrimage expenses, printing the Koran, and covering the expenses of the campaign of faith led by President Saddam Husayn that aims at teaching the great book of God and the principles of the prophet's tradition.

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Reportage, Reaction to Capture of Hamas Squad Members

Shin Bet Announces Capture

TA2308165595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Shin Bet has found the perpetrators of the terrorist attacks in Ramat Gan and Jerusalem. A short time ago, the head of the Shin Bet summoned a special news conference. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

[Menashe] The terrorist squad that constituted the infrastructure of Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] *military arm in Judaea, Samaria,* and the Gaza Strip was captured after an extended and concentrated intelligence effort by the Shin Bet.

The squad members are responsible for two suicide attacks: The bombing of the No. 20 bus in Ramat Gan on 24 July 1995, in which six people were killed and 31 wounded, and the bombing of the No. 26 bus in Jerusalem on 21 August 1995, which resulted in the death of four people and the wounding of 107.

The interrogation of the arrested squad members reveals that the attack in Ramat Gan was perpetrated by Labib Anwar 'Azzam, born in 1973 and a resident of Qaryut in the Nabulus District, while the Jerusalem bombing was perpetrated by 26-year-old Sufyan Salim 'Abd-Rabbuh, a resident of al-Zahiriyah in the Hebron District. The squad was led by two prominent Hamas fugitives: Nasir 'Isa from the Balatah refugee camp and Hatim Isma'il from the Gaza Strip, a student at al-Najah University in Nabulus.

Until not too long ago, the two were staying in the Gaza Strip, where they were briefed and trained by Yahya 'Ayyash, alias the Engineer. Using forged identity cards, they recently arrived in Judaea and Samaria and began building an infrastructure in the field based on Hamas activists with the purpose of planning and perpetrating terrorist attacks against Israel's civilian population. 'Isa, who was in charge of Judaea and Samaria, rented an apartment in the Nabulus area and coordinated his activities from there. According to 'Ayyash's instructions, he initially tried to locate potential suicide bombers. Based on a previous acquaintance, 'Isa approached 'Azzam, who was known to have participated in numerous nationalistic events in al-Najah University in Nabulus, and proposed to him to switch to military activities within the framework of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, Hamas' military arm. After 'Azzam agreed to carry out suicide attacks, 'Isa assembled the bomb used in the Ramat Gan bombing in his apartment. 'Ayyash referred 'Isa to additional Hamas activists in Judaea, through whom he met 'Abd-Rabbuh, who consented to carry out suicide attacks. 'Isa assembled yet another bomb, put it in a bag, and sent it over to 'Abd-Rabbuh with Muhi-al-Din Sharif of Jerusalem shortly before the attack. 'Abd-Rabbuh was instructed to carry out an attack in the Jerusalem area within two days of receiving the bomb.

The investigation into the suspects further shows that Isma'il, along with Ayman Sadah, another Hamas activist from Jerusalem who headed a big squad and was arrested last May, were behind the suicide attack at the bus station near the International Convention Center in Jerusalem. Approval for the operation was given by the most prominent Hamas *fugitive in the Gaza Strip,* Muhammad Dhif, who is responsible for, among other things, the kidnapping and murder of three soldiers — the late Karavani, Simani, and Wachsman — and the murder of another seven Israelis.

The investigation uncovered the safe house in the Nabulus area that was used by the squad members as a laboratory and a workshop for the manufacture and storage of explosives which were later used to assemble the bombs. The material found in the apartment includes: automatic rifles and explosive charges ready for use, with which the squad members had planned to carry out additional attacks in the near future; a videocassette — which is now in the hands of the Shin Bet — showing the suicide bomber 'Azzam bidding farewell to his family and friends before the attack; chemicals used in the preparation of bombs, pipe joints, and numerous electronic gadgets used to build bomb detonators; forged identity cards to give the squad members freedom of movement in the area; wigs, several skullcaps, and large quantities of written material.

Thirty people have been arrested so far, most of them from Samaria and some from the Jerusalem area and the Hebron District.

In addition to suicide attacks, they also planned to plant car bombs and to kidnap an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier to be used as a bargaining chip for the release of Hamas prisoners. The car bomb was ready and was found in Samaria. The interrogation of the detainees continues.

The head of the Shin Bet said in the news conference that the affair actually began two days before the attack in Jerusalem, because an intelligence effort had been under way which led to the first arrest. We investigated as best we could, he said. Last Saturday night, we were already holding a man who was connected with the affair. Had I not allowed the kind of investigation I think should be conducted, after consulting with the legal authorities, we would have achieved no results — and I would particularly like to stress the attacks that

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were still in the pipeline. Had I not given them leeway in the investigation, the blood of the next victims would have been on my hands.

As for Yahya 'Ayyash, the head of the Shin Bet estimated that the man is in the Gaza Strip. This week's investigation revealed that 'Ayyash was there a month and a half ago and had been there for quite some time. Whether he is there now I do not know, the Shin Bet head said, but I think he behaves like a fugitive in the Gaza Strip as well.

Further on Arrests, Interrogations

TA2408071895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has congratulated the Shin Bet chief and staff on exposing the gang that perpetrated the Ramat Gan and Jerusalem suicide bombings. Over 30 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members have been detained. The interrogations continued yesterday and today, and security officials expect more developments and arrests.

Gang leader 'Abd-al-Nasir 'Isa was detained last Saturday [19 August] on the basis of intelligence information. At the time of his arrest, the Shin Bet was not aware of his involvement in the suicide attacks. The Shin Bet had detained 'Abd-al-Nasir 'Isa three times in the past, and on Saturday the investigators again lacked reasonable grounds to suspect him of possessing information that could save human life, or information about suicide attacks. The investigators decided to interrogate him by methods allowable with special permits only after the Jerusalem bus explosion. In such cases, the Shin Bet chief has the discretion to decide on special interrogation without consulting the legal authorities.

'Abd-al-Nasir 'Isa was captured in Nabulus on Saturday night. He told his interrogators nothing. On Monday morning, a bus exploded in Jerusalem. The Ramat Gan and Jerusalem attacks were only the first in a series of attacks planned by 'Abd-al-Nasir. The arrest of the gang members prevented other planned attacks, particularly a car bomb and the abduction of soldiers. The exposure of the gang and the continued investigation will undoubtedly uncover additional information that will assist the security forces' efforts to expose other operators and peons.

The Shin Bet chief said yesterday: I know of no other Engineer Yahya 'Ayyash disciples. This was the first time bombs were prepared by his pupils, and not directly by him. It was a new approach, as was their using the signature of 'Ayyash's disciples.

The Shin Bet chief further noted that the exposure of this affair was not made in cooperation with the Palestinian Authority [PA] — unlike an earlier case, when Wa'il Nassar was exposed in Gaza. He explained that there is no uniform Hamas suicide bomber profile, and there are no special idiosyncrasies, with the exception of their religious zealotry. They are fanatic Hamas members, but not senior Hamas officials. They give no early warning about the coming suicide attacks, he said.

The Shin Bet chief explained that one of the interrogators' problems was that the suspects were prepared for interrogation. Another facet was what he termed the suspects' provocative conduct toward the investigators. He said the practice of not claiming responsibility for an attack was calculated to avert a clash with the PA.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 24 August publishes on page 1 a report by Alon Pinkas which refers to the Shin Bet chief's news conference as "an unprecedented meeting with reporters."]

Rabin: 'One of the Most Important' Captures

TA2308184595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that if the Shin Bet had been given the tools to investigate the terrorist attack in Jerusalem, it might have been averted. We cannot stand up to terror without giving the Shin Bet the tools to fight it, the prime minister stated this evening in a meeting of the Labor ministers. This is reported by our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel. Rabin added that the capture of the terrorist squads announced today is one of the most important since the Shin Bet began operating in the territories.

Likud Issues 'Reaction' to Capture

TA2308170795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Likud has issued a reaction to the capture of the perpetrators of the recent attacks in Ramat Gan and Jerusalem. The Likud statement says the fact that the suicide terrorists were briefed and trained for their murderous missions in 'Arafat-controlled Gaza provides decisive proof of the failure of the government's policy. This is reported by our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel.

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Hamas Leader Said Directing Attacks From Syria

TA2308183295 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Aug 95

[Discussion between anchorman Hayim Yavin and Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari in studio; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Yavin] What are the main lessons to be learned from the capture of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists today?

[Ya'ari] With your permission, Hayim, I would like to discuss a key point: Syria. This has not been said so far, and it ought to be said: The man who runs the terror being perpetrated against us by suicide bombers sits in Damascus. I will shortly state his name and report details about him. It is hard for me to believe that President al-Asad does not know of his existence. My interpretation of the situation is that as the freeze in the negotiations continues, al-Asad is telling us: Look, I hold the strings of terror in Lebanon — Hizballah — as well as the strings of terror in the West Bank. Give me more; talk to me differently.

The name of the man is 'Izz-al-Din Shaykh Khalil. He is the spiritual father of Yahya 'Ayyash, alias the Engineer. He is 33 years old and comes from Gaza's al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood. Israel deported him to Lebanon in 1992. He is the head of Hamas' military apparatus for terrorist attacks, including suicide bombers. He is the liaison man not just with the Gaza Strip but also with the West Bank. In other words, the head of the snake resides in Damascus. This carries a significance that transcends daily operational matters; it definitely carries political significance.

[Yavin] You mean political significance in terms of our very complex relationship with Syria, perhaps even with the United States.

[Ya'ari] Yes. I am sure or, better yet, I know that the Americans have discussed these matters, including the announcement two days ago on Damascus radio [as heard], with the Syrians, and now we know why. I would like to repeat the man's name: 'Izz-al- Din Shaykh Khalil. Remember the name. He is the head of the snake in this case. [passage omitted]

Rabin Comments on Source of Hamas 'Activities'

TA2408113895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Aug 95 p A2

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin and Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, visited the Golan heights yesterday morning, where he attended an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] battalion commanders' graduation ceremony. He said that contrary to the Palestinian argument that the radical Islamic organizations' activities are conducted mainly from Damascus, the facts are different. "Most of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activity is carried out be people in Judaea and Samaria," Rabin said. "In my assessment, both of the attacks in Ramat Gan and Jerusalem were perpetrated by Judaea and Samaria residents and planned there.

"Some instructions also come from Damascus. We know that Damascus has been the headquarters of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al- Shaqaqi for many years, ever since he was deported from Israel in 1985. A certain Hamas shaykh, one of the movement's leaders whom we also deported has been living in Damascus for several years, changing his address from time to time. This man serves as the spiritual mentor and perhaps also the operator of Yahya 'Ayyash, the engineer."

The prime minister rejected the possibility of demanding that Syria stop terrorist activity from its domain. "This is the reality that has existed since the Madrid Conference," Rabin said. "Radio AL-QUDS broadcast from Damascus throughout all the intifadah. No one made our participation in the Madrid Conference conditional on Syria's banning the terrorists' headquarters in Damascus.

"Negotiations with Syria started at the Madrid Conference and continued in Washington. The talks were not made conditional on the expulsion of the terrorist headquarters from Syria, Damascus, Lebanon, or any other Syrian-controlled territory."

Rabin asserted that many attempted suicide terrorist attacks have been foiled and noted that the security services have exposed dozens of such attempts which "we did not publish." Rabin praised the Shin Bet and said that the war against Hamas would continue.

The prime minister reviewed the closing exercise of the battalion commanders' course. He was accompanied by senior officers, including Major General Matan Vilna'i, the deputy chief of staff. He heard security briefings from the officers and spoke with the graduates of the course.

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Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday that he could not promise an end to the terrorist attacks, regardless of whether the peace process continued or ground to a halt. We experienced terrorist attacks, Peres said, even before the peace process began, and they are still continuing.

Peres asserted that although he felt a historic affiliation to Hebron and Nabulus, this emotional link granted neither him "nor anyone else the right to forcibly dominate a foreign people for ever." The foreign minister also said: "In my view, Judaism is not just territory but a moral and human code of values which includes the Ten Commandments."

Rabin Said Determined on Oslo B, Signing Event

TA2408054595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Report by party affairs correspondent Sefi Handler]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Labor ministers meeting yesterday addressed mainly Secretary General Zvili's new public relations plan, which maintains that ministers should assume greater responsibility in the sphere of public relations and that public relations should focus on the individual citizen, rather than macro-issues, such as statistics and so forth. The discussion was not concluded, but many attending ministers agreed that some macro-issues, such as the political and security matters, will probably decide the ballots.

With regard to the latter, the prime minister did have a message for his ministers. The prime minister — according to some — displayed great resolve with regard to the Oslo B agreement and the signing ceremony. Referring to the thwarted Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] plan to carry out five suicide attacks, Rabin stressed: Even five attacks would not have stopped the process. Rabin criticized Minister 'Uzi Bar'am's remarks about the electoral damage caused by the attacks. It is an unfortunate statement, Yitzhaq Rabin said. As for the suggestion of the Labor secretary general and other senior party officials to forgo a festive signing ceremony in Washington, Rabin said: Why? Do you want to hide the peace process? If you are not convinced, what will the public think? Rabin's message was that he was determined to attend the Washington ceremony as it is being planned by the Americans.

Halt to 'All' Orient House Political Actions Sought

TA2308120995 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 23 Aug 95

[Communicated by Police Ministry Spokesman Rafi Levy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the wake of last week's decision of the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem, that the issue of Orient House activity would be examined separately, a meeting was held today (Wednesday), 23.08.95, between Justice Minister David Liba'i, Police Minister Moshe Shahal, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, Attorney-General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir, State Attorney Dorit Beinish and security officials.

Shahal, Liba'i and Olmert announced — in consultation with Ben-Ya'ir, Beinish and the security officials — that they are seeking a halt of all political activity by the PA [Palestinian Authority] at Orient House which is prohibited by law, and a halt of PLO activity there as well, which is not in keeping with Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem. To that end, Liba'i, Shahal and Olmert have decided to study the relevant factual material on the issue.

The ministers will reconvene in another few days in order to decide on the course of action which they will recommend to the Ministerial Committee, headed by Prime Minister Rabin.

Police Minister Shahal will consolidate the relevant material from the various security sources about the facts relating to activity at Orient House.

Jericho Area Closure Said For 'Security Reasons'

TA2308122895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces imposed a closure on the Jericho area this morning, banning entry and exit into and from the city. Military sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the closure was imposed due to security reasons.

West Bank Closure Extended Until 27 Aug

TA2308184795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The closure imposed on Judaea and Samaria following the bus bombing in Jerusalem has been extended until the morning of 27 August. This is reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

As for laborers from the Gaza Strip, only those holding new magnetic cards will be allowed to cross into Israel.

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Israeli Reportedly Shot in West Bank Grocery Store

TA2308113695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli Druze was shot and seriously wounded in Janin by two armed men. The Israeli, a resident of Shefar'am is employed by the Public Works Division. The man, who sustained medium wounds, was shot in a grocery store while buying food for his coworkers. The assailants snatched his revolver and escaped. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the wounded man was transferred to Ha'emeq Hospital in 'Afula. Palestinian sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that a Palestinian was also wounded in the shooting. Police believe the shooting was nationalistically motivated.

Iraqi Threat Said Serving Israeli, U.S. Interests

TA2008110595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Aug 95 p B1

[Commentary by Tzvi Bar'el: "Thanks to Saddam"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At first it was merely "a maneuver decided on some time ago"; then, the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, armed with Tomahawk missiles, docked at Haifa port. U.S. warships are sailing down the Persian Gulf toward Iraq, and hundreds of U.S. soldiers are conducting joint war exercises with the Jordanian Army.

Robert Pelletreau, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, arrived in Jordan to persuade it to sever its economic ties with Iraq. He will also call on Saudi Arabia to replace Iraq as Jordan's main oil supplier. President Clinton — this time, without consulting NATO or the United Nations — made haste to back King Husayn. He is not talking about economic aid or writing off debts. The President has the authority to direct the army on his own.

It is doubtful whether there is military justification for the commotion the United States has set off in the region. The State Department spokesman referred to movements by unspecified Iraqi forces, but reports from both Jordan and Kuwait said there were no unusual troop movements. No Iraqi forces have been redeployed. Foreign correspondents permitted to tour Baghdad photographed the normal scenes of Iraqi civilians busy selling off their belongings to buy food. Jordan, the excuse for this military presence, is apparently not overly anxious. Not only does it not anticipate an Iraqi attack against it, but it is even trying to maintain an atmosphere of business as usual with Iraq.

Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir promised members of parliament last week that Jordan would not become a base for subversive activity against Iraq. Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti did not mention the possibility of severing ties with Iraq, and even King Husayn took the trouble to cable Saddam Husayn to express the hope that they will be able to continue to serve their peoples' interests.

But even if the current Iraqi threat is a fantasy, fear of it, as well as the U.S. response to it, have already set off — although not intentionally — a chemical reaction in the Middle East compound.

The sensational defection is responsible for two important political developments. Saudi Arabia named its new ambassador to Jordan, who will be appointed after five years of severed ties between the two countries, and the foreign ministers of Kuwait and Jordan will meet next month for the first time since the Gulf war. Jordan, an outcast both because of its pro-Iraqi policy and because it signed a peace accord with Israel, is quickly returning to the Arab fold.

This is good news for Israel, because in a contest between the domestic Arab interest and the rejection of the peace process — in other words, Israel — the Arab interest will win. Even Saudi Arabia — which, in the fear-inspiring summit meeting in Alexandria less than a year ago, made a commitment to Syria to try to freeze the process as a means of pressuring Israel — is warmly embracing Jordan and is even promising to participate in the Amman economic conference in late October.

The rapprochement between the Gulf states and Jordan does not immediately turn them into Israel's allies, but a strategic change is already starting to take place. While in the past, any Arab unification or rapprochement was viewed as an overall threat to Israel and the Israeli security concept referred to all Arab coalitions and not only individual Arab states, it now transpires that that generalization is also changing. An Arab coalition that includes Jordan is not only not viewed as a threat, it is even receiving Israeli backing, and the outcome is revolutionary. For the first time, Israel is overtly becoming an integral part of the Middle East defense lineup. It is no longer, at least from the Gulf's view, the region's major threat. On the contrary, if Israeli-U.S. cooperation against Iraq during the Gulf war was kept secret because of the Arab coalition's opposition, the USS Theodore Roosevelt is now docked in Haifa with the purpose of launching missiles against an Arab state, and not a single Arab protest has been heard.

The defection of Saddam Husayn's sons-in-law revived the U.S. hope that the Iraqi regime can be brought down soon or, at least, that a new U.S. order can be established in the Middle East. It seems, however, that

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the United States needs Saddam's threats more than the replacement of his regime. As long as he is around, there is justification for the continued massive U.S. military presence in the Middle East and the special ties between the United States and several Arab states.

It pays not only the United States, but perhaps also Israel, to protect Saddam Husayn, because it is not every day that the Arab states face a threat they consider more frightening than Israel.

Jordanian Prince Arrives for Official Visit

TA2308115195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan's Prince Ra'id Bin-Zayd, cousin to King Husayn and head of protocol at the royal palace, is visiting Elat. The prince arrived for the first official visit via the 'Arava border crossing and was received by the mayor of Elat. The prince, who heads the committee for the advancement of the disabled in Jordan, came to work out plans for a contest between disabled persons from Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, which will be held in Elat and al-'Aqabah in October. On arrival, the prince told our correspondent Yehudit Silberstein: We have made peace, and now we have to build it. We are constructing here a model for peace for all the countries of the region to adopt.

Report Views Water Shortages in Hebron, Bethlehem

TA2008075895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky, Jon Immanuel, and ITIM]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The cabinet today will discuss water usage in the territories, and plans to build new water pipelines to settlers living in parts of the territories that would hopefully alleviate water shortages for Arabs as well.

Maj.-Gen. Oren Shahor, the coordinator of activities in the territories, will give the cabinet an overview of the water situation.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin announced to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee last week that Israel plans to build new water pipelines from inside the Green Line to those settlers living in the 'Etzyon Bloc and Qiryat Arba' area.

A spokeswoman for the civil administration said she expected the pipelines to be completed within two years.

An official in the Prime Minister's Office said the sudden decision to discuss the water situation in the territories derived from a Channel 1 report Friday [18 August] night on Palestinian water shortages in Hebron.

The report, which showed green and flowering gardens in Qiryat Arba' and dried-up fields worked by Hebron's Arab residents, sparked angry responses from Meretz ministers.

Communications, Science and Arts Minister Shulamit Aloni said the contrast "erases at once the word 'enlightened' from the descriptions we tend to be so proud of."

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, in a statement, called the situation as the report described it "repulsive and embarrassing," adding that "Never has Jewish morality been as distorted and subject to ridicule as it is expressed in the reality of Qiryat Arba' (which is like) Sodom."

Shahor's office, in response, said the water shortage in Hebron to a great extent is due to old leaking pipes servicing Hebron, causing a loss of some 40 percent of the water supplied to the city.

The civil administration said various projects have increased the water supply to the Hebron area by 40 percent in the past year.

It also notes that the Palestinians in Hebron owe the Mekorot Water company NIS [new Israeli shekels] 4.5 million.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah disputed Shahor's claims saying Hebron owes NIS 4.5 million from before he took office in March last year, but the civil administration has been supplying Hebron's water to nearby towns and villages, and itself owes Hebron NIS 1.5 million.

Since he took office, al-Natshah said, all water bills, including bills for water not used by the municipality, have been paid.

A well the Hebron Municipality has owned near the al-Fawwar refugee camp since 1939 produces 2,000 cu.m. a day, but Hebron is compelled by the civil administration to supply the town of Dura and other villages, which the civil administration water authority should be supplying itself from other wells, al-Natshah said. Only now is it going to do this from wells near Sammu', south of Hebron.

The leakage, which he estimated at 30 percent, is to be repaired by PECDAR [Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction] and Italian donors, but even with the repair, al- Natshah said, water supply is far below the 25,000 cu.m. a day required.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 20 August adds: "Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj says

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the settlement of Efrat receives more water than the entire Arab populace in the Bethlehem area. The Civil Administration spokesman said in reaction that while Bethlehem receives some 10,000 cubic meters of water every 24 hours, Efrat receives 1,500 cubic meters. The water allocation is done by Bethlehem officials, and enormous quantities of water are wasted due to pipeline failures. The Civil Administration says that about a year ago, it granted the municipality some NIS 1.5 million for water system improvements, but nothing has been done to date.

["Former Water Commissioner Dan Zaslawsky says the water shortage in Hebron and other Judaea and Samaria locations stems from the local authorities' failure to carry out proper pipeline maintenance. He added that almost half the Hebron water trickles out from pipes, because the municipality does not take proper care of the water system and does not charge the residents for water costs."]

In another development, the cabinet is due to approve the transfer of another eight spheres of civilian responsibility to the Palestinian Authority. The eight areas are: commerce and industry, agriculture, municipal government, fuel and gasoline, postal services, labor, insurance and statistics. The agreement is expected to be signed some time this week in Cairo.

Hebron Water Supply Increased as 'Gesture'

TA2308150695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The water supply to Hebron was increased today by another 1,000 cubic meters per day. To that end, the settlement of Efrat was disconnected from the water wells in Herodion and now receives its water supply from the 'Emeq Ha'ela drills. The disposable water was diverted to Hebron at the agriculture minister's instructions.

Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur and Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], head of the Palestinian delegation, will resume their talks this evening at the Patio Hotel in Elat. Our correspondent Yehudit Zilberstein reports that increasing the water supply to Hebron is a gesture on the part of the agriculture minister on the eve of the resumption of the talks.

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King Husayn Addresses Nation on Iraq

JN2308190595 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Aug 95

[Speech by King Husayn addressing the nation on 23 August; place not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Peace and blessings be upon the Arab Hashemite prophet and all his family and companions.

Dear compatriots, people of dear Jordan, brotherly people of our noble nation everywhere: God's peace and blessings be upon you. It pleases me to address every Arab in the greater homeland and to every Jordanian among my people and clan, who placed their dear confidence in me, which I reciprocated with confidence and affection. I was and will continue throughout my life to boast of belonging to them and to be sincere in my affection and patience under all circumstances and positions. This stems from the magnitude of the responsibility I shoulder. They have known me as a Muslim Arab and a Jordanian Hashemite, and known that my efforts and hopes are to explore the future and landmarks of the road and the given facts of the complicated circumstances that are linked to the paths of the future to which we are seeking to bring the generations, where they can enjoy freedom, justice, dignity, and peace. This mission is preceded only by my desire to seek the satisfaction of Almighty God and have a clear conscience. The future I envisage is a future of a people amongst the nation and the future of a nation in and outside the great homeland. It is the nation the Almighty God wanted to be the best of nations among mankind.

Brethren, you have always known that I derive resolve from my quest to obtain the satisfaction of Almighty God, and ability and determination from my life journey with you, the journey during which we faced most difficult challenges. Being amongst you, I am aware of your patience and perseverance and your affection for me. You know of the trust, sincerity, and affection flooding my heart and mind. My utmost desire in this dear journey is my eagerness to safeguard your dignity, which in turn is my dignity, and to defend your right to a free, honorable life in which every person can exercise his humanity without being denied the right to contribute to shaping the future of his homeland and nation, obtain his rights, and perform his duties. In this endeavor, he will be free in his stands, full of dignity, dear among his people and clan, and present amongst the sons of his nation with all the awareness he possesses, the efforts he exerts, and the sacrifices he makes.

Dear Brothers: These are some of our concepts and features of our march. They will continue to be the same with God's help. They are concepts and features that are not impromptu and have not grown in the hearts without suffering. We confronted challenges until we became like a good tree which sincere people admire, and from which hypocrites die of envy.

I am saying this while witnessing the Jordanian model taking shape in the form of sincere positions and strong resolution, tolerant democracy, balanced pluralism, and awareness of the state of the nation that make us shoulder the responsibility of the trust we are having. We make an appeal to the greater homeland whenever a child is starved, a sick person fails to find medicine, a village is deprived of education, or a free man complains of the darkness of prison and cruelty of the jailer.

Hence, based on a clear pan-Arab concept, we want the nation to be aware of the situation in this world that has changed and in which a historic movement took place that allowed all contradictions to surface simultaneously. After everything we know of this new world, our nation has the right to offer sincere advice and views, since we have always extended sincere amity and advice to it, and offered martyrs on every spot of its soil for the sake of the message and justice. We taught the entire world the meaning of revolution and the purity of revolutionaries.

O Brothers: There has been much talk about Iraq which has been and will continue to be our brother; the Iraq, whose people's pain and suffering we are sensing, and the Iraq of nobleness and genuineness, which has the right to occupy its position among the ranks of its nation and among the states of this world. Iraq has been the cradle of human civilizations and the active contributor to these civilizations. Iraq, its people and soldiers have a special status in the hearts of Jordanians. This status is characterized by sincere brotherhood which we lived throughout the long march, and which was nourished by the pages of shining history, since al-Humaymah [village in southern Jordan], from where the Abbasid call began, to the time of the Great Arab Revolt, which was carried out for the sake of freedom, unity, integration, and progress. This was the time when the revolution's army waged our immortal battles, and from which our Arab army and its brother the Iraqi Army came. Both armies were engaged together in immortal pan-Arab battles of our nation, and its martyrs and our martyrs fell cloaked with freedom and glory, watering our land and the Arab land with their pure blood.

As for us, the house of the Prophet, the tombs of our martyrs are studding the land of Iraq, rising high like the banners of the house of the Hashemites who are

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prepared to die in all struggles for the sake of freedom, justice and the dignity of man. This has been our immortal history since the days of 'Ali Bin-Abi-Talib, his sons, Hasan and Husayn, God's peace be upon them and finally the era of Faysal II and his family whose precious blood flowed in Karbala', watering the land of Iraq in defense of principles, rights, dignity, and life.

As Iraq stood by Jordan, the Jordanians stood by Iraq in its darkest days and circumstances, especially when we were surprised by its war with Iran. We called it the eastern gate of the Arab homeland. For eight long years, I was present with the people of Iraq, spending the same amount of time and efforts there as I spent in my homeland, Jordan. You are aware that circumstance in the country and the region were difficult, the nights were very heavy, and roads were impassable.

Lest anybody should think that I have ambitions in Iraq, I would like to reiterate to all—and may God be my witness to what I say—that I have no ambitions or aspirations except to see soon Iraq emerge from the total darkness and its long night of suffering to see the dawn of its freedom and liberation from all the causes of suffering, be they internal or external. I am saying this because some people might think that I might be looking for a seat I held when my childhood mate, Faysal II Bin-Ghazi Bin-Faysal Bin-al-Husayn was martyred. For I was his deputy and heir to the presidency of the Arab Union that brought the two countries together. He departed at an early age and was a victim of the conspiracies of all hostile forces in and outside the Arab homeland. He departed before he matured enough and before he was able to contribute his share. I remember that I accepted God's judgment regarding what happened to my martyr kinfolks. We, the family of Hashim, ask only God's satisfaction and pray him to grant us success to enable us to continue to carry out our duties in this life and then to see God's face along with the pious martyrs of God's slaves.

We have let the fraternal Iraqi people choose their own way and live their own life, and we hoped that the Sunnis, Shiites, Arabs, Kurds, and all elements of its national fabric which the Hashemites had held together, would not be torn apart. We also beseeched as we always beseech God to safeguard its national unity and sovereignty over all its territory, and to grant it success and guide its steps to preserve the unity of its people under respected and harmonious pluralism, in which no element of that national fabric will dominate and in which no human right will be harmed, in an atmosphere of freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights.

When the Iraq-Iran war ended, great hopes for Iraq's prosperity and progress were raised, and we hoped it would be a factor of stability and growth in its greater homeland and would allow its youth to offer new sacrifices to enrich the nation and human civilization with new creativity. We also hoped that Iraq and its people would attain prosperity under the canopy of peace, which we wished for the entire region and its future peoples and generations. We often gave advice and expressed our hope to the Iraqi leadership concerning its Arab and international stands. We were very pleased to hear from it during Arab summits its categorical rejection of the policy of interference in the affairs of the brothers and its full commitment to the principle of not using Arab weapons by any Arab state against any other sisterly Arab state, that the smallest Arab state and people have the same rights that the biggest states have, and that if a state attacked another state, then the remainder of the sisterly states were required to stop and even to launch war against it to deter it and prevent its aggression by force. As its leadership announced, Iraq demanded that its brothers should even take such a stand if it attacked any sisterly Arab state. We were all very satisfied and reassured by what we all heard.

We then continued our efforts to achieve further detente, accord, and integration in our great homeland. Suddenly, we heard the devastating news that Iraq attacked sisterly Kuwait following bilateral differences, and that it occupied Kuwait under the same leadership which proposed the above principles and expressed commitment to them, as we have said.

As a result of this terrible shock, we in Jordan, moved to deal with the problem on the Arab level and to explore all the Arab potential to achieve Iraq's immediate withdrawal from Kuwait and to tackle problems between the two sisterly countries through peaceful brotherly means, and that in case of failure, to resort to all available means to liberate Kuwait so that the matter will not leave our Arab hands and consequently create responsibilities.

At any rate, events took their destined course, the conflict was internationalized, all the Arabs' national and pan-Arab interests suffered, and the image of the Arab nation was shaken in the eyes of the entire world. This was by all standards the inevitable result of sisterly Iraq's invasion of sisterly Kuwait. All the repercussions and the results that followed until today were the result of this invasion.

As for fraternal Iraqis, since the beginning of our ties with them, they have been reticent over anything related to their major decisions, beginning with their war with Iran and then their occupation of Kuwait. With the internationalization of the crisis, the pieces of advice we offered, which emanated from a living conscience

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that is keen on safeguarding the interests of the nation and its peoples, the destiny of its generations, and the interests of Iraq and its people were gone with the wind.

O free brothers; O brothers, sons of the same and one nation: We in Jordan have endured as determined noble people do. Our suffering was tough, but human. One million refugees heading for home came to our country. We offered them food and drink. Moreover, approximately 400,000 people who contributed to the construction endeavor in Kuwait and other fraternal Gulf nations returned to our country. This suffering began on the first day of the Iraqi occupation of fraternal Kuwait. This was followed by a land, financial, and economic siege, a war around us, and military threats made against us. At this point, in which we upheld the trust of pride, dignity, and brotherhood, we were alone. We recruited all individuals of the arms-bearing age to defend dear Jordan and prevent any encroachments on it from any party whatsoever. With regard to our political endeavors, we did our best to achieve a peaceful solution and remedy to the catastrophe, what materialized of the catastrophe and what we expected to follow, but to no avail. We repeatedly moved to various parts of the world toward that end. Meanwhile, the fraternal Iraqis took measures and made statements contrary to our endeavors to serve Iraq and the Arabs—measures and statements that adversely affected our credibility on the Arab and international scenes, which is the dearest asset we have been known for in this world. The war we expected broke out. Missiles entered our airspace in the direction of civilian targets in Israel. They also landed in sisterly Arab cities. Have you ever before heard me ask this question which I pose to you now? Was Iraq aware of the real danger of firing its missiles across our airspace? Was it aware of the magnitude of the Israeli reaction and its likely consequences on this lofty Jordanian Arab citadel, the only one which was besieged at that time? By behaving in such a way, didn't it add to the many unrealistic actions from which Iraq and the Iraqis as well as all the Arabs suffered and continue to suffer up to this moment? This is the first time you hear me ask these questions.

The entire world has not heard or sensed from me anything other than my continuous effort, to the best of my ability, to end the suffering of the fraternal and dear Iraqi people. This effort continued and the people of this dear Jordanian homeland helped me in this effort.

I raise a question, and for the first time: Have Iraqi quarters deliberately cast doubt on the integrity of our position and our eagerness to safeguard the interests of all Arab brothers without discrimination? Have these quarters tried, among the forces that wanted this, to negatively influence or undermine our credibility on the Arab and international level in a manner that weakened our ability to serve Iraq and the Arabs—we who had never plotted against any brother or friend. Had we been in a position of the one who is aware, and had we been influential, or a planner whose view or advice is acceptable, Iraq and all Arabs would have been in good shape.

All these questions have only come to my mind recently, although I have great doubts about the information which used to flow to us and to the whole world, not only concerning the suffering of the dear Iraqi people as a result of the siege from which they suffered patiently, toughly, and proudly, but also concerning the sufferings of all sectors of Iraqi people in Iraq caused by the practices which deprived the Iraqi individual of the simplest human rights.

Dear brothers, here I would like to indicate that brother Staff General Husayn Kamil and his family have contributed to clearing the vision to see what befell Iraq in terms of pain and suffering, which I do not think are greater than his suffering and that of his family when they made their decision to split from the kinfolk there and from the position, prestige, prosperity, and comfort in exchange for a greater comfort, which is that of a clear conscience toward the people and army of Iraq. Husayn Kamil and his dear family came to their uncle's house and his care upon their own accord in the homeland of all Jordanians. He is provided with care and hospitality in a country that is friendly to Iraq and among a people who love Iraq and the Iraqi people, and who feel their suffering and live their pain. The most he and his family hope for is that the long, dark chapter of Iraq's suffering comes to an end and a new dawn begins.

We know this brother, who chose Jordan and sought security in it, and we know that he has never been an agent to any party in this world. Jordan has no agents, and it does not receive or protect an agent or traitor. Husayn Kamil came to Jordan and spoke to me on arrival about his decision and his request to accept him as a guest because he knows the status of Iraq and the Iraqis in my heart and in Jordan's heart, which is full of love for Iraq, its people, and all Arabs.

He is a true Iraqi young man, who succeeded in rallying around himself a team of Iraq's best qualified people both in their country and the world. They all worked to complete the building of their country, boost its armed forces, and fulfill its needs in its long war with its Islamic sister Iran. Among the reasons of that war was the issue of the Shatt al-'Arab. The same Iraqi leadership relinquished its demands for sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab, as stipulated by the well-known

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Algiers agreement with Iran, when it accepted the thalweg line as its border. It then crossed it with a stream of pure blood that was shed on both sides for eight long years only to once again adopt the thalweg line shortly after its occupation of Kuwait. Perhaps if any good came from all that took place it was the final demarcation of the Iraqi-Iranian borders and the Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders, and Iraq's subsequent recognition of these borders and its commitment to respect them before the entire world.

Husayn Kamil contributed to and supervised the establishment of the Republican Guards and the Special Gurads in the Iraqi Army. He also succeeded in his serious tasks to rebuild, repair, and operate the Iraqi infrastructure in the aftermath of the Gulf war catastrophe. The recent years were difficult; they abounded with tragedies and challenges. I was shocked once again these days when I heard a confirmation of previous information I had obtained from Husayn Kamil during our first meeting, when he disclosed that Iraq massed its troops toward fraternal Kuwait to storm it once again if there was no quick Arab and international reaction to the move. I also heard that plans were discussed on the highest levels in Iraq a few days before he sought refuge in order to attack Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Certainly, the mere thinking in this direction and the possible implementation of it constitute a terrible disaster for this nation, which has not yet recovered from its wounds. It also involves an inevitable catastrophe that will destroy and kill the remainder of the Iraqi Army, including the Republican and Special Guards, in a manner which, God forbid, would expose Iraq to dismemberment, fragmentation, and loss, and destroy the eastern gate of the Arab homeland.

With great pain, dismay, and sorrow, I announce and caution that the influential international powers will pursue their serious work until the exposure of all the dimensions of the Iraqi programs to manufacture the weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, chemical, biological, germicide—and their culture media. These powers will not lift the embargo on Iraq even after the exposure and total destruction of them all because they will continue to insist on Iraq's implementation of all the Security Council resolutions without exception, foremost being the full disclosure of the fate of Kuwaitis missing in Iraq, something we have long sought to reveal, and then the resolutions related to human rights in Iraq in general.

All these facts and this suffering was the reason why Husayn Kamil and his family left their homeland to another part of their greater homeland. He talked there and tried to effect reforms at every opportunity that was given to him until he despaired of any success in his endeavors. Then he came to our country and spoke to you and to the Iraqis and to the world from my house, which is his house, and my home which is your home, against the accusations that were leveled at him. He spoke in the name of millions of Iraqis and to them from Jordan, the safe haven of the oppressed freedom fighters throughout history. His conscience and honor prevented him from pouncing on his own family in his homeland where he was held in trust.

Then he made up his decision and voluntarily left his homeland, taking responsibility for all the results, refusing to enjoy what the majority of his people were denied, and trying to save his homeland and preserve its unity and the right to live.

Brothers, these are the facts on the recent developments in fraternal Iraq and the tragic suffering of its people. As always, I had to reveal to you and to all Arabs some of these facts.

The talk that Jordan might close its borders with Iraq and deny its people access to the food and medical supplies that have continued to reach them is something we have never entertained. This is because we will do everything in our power to assist the people of Iraq until the long night of their suffering comes to an end. As for the reports that we are looking for one or more precautionary alternative for the oil supplies we have imported from Iraq in exchange for Iraq's debts to us, which total over $1.1 billion to date, as I have been recently informed, I would like to say that we are looking for precautionary alternatives, based on our duty toward our people regarding the handling of any emergency situation that could threaten at any time our continued receipt of oil from fraternal Iraq, albeit for a short while. Our answer is known to the reports that a certain international party is putting pressure on us with regard to any issue. For we have confirmed throughout our march before the entire mankind that we do not succumb to pressures regardless of how severe our suffering is, that we do not succumb to anything other than our convictions and the dictates of our living consciences, God be praised for this, and that our heads do not bow to anybody except God.

That little Jordan, which is big, thanks to you all, has won the world's respect for its courage and form principles, credibility, and noble stands, is a matter that calls for our satisfaction and we appreciate and are grateful to this world attitude toward us.

With regard to the rumors regarding fears on our part over a possible Iraqi attack against us, I would like to say that al-Husayn, who once was honored to have been the first Jordanian to volunteer in the ranks of the al-Yarmuk Forces to save Iraq, is confident that he, along with the whole of Jordan and its Arab Army, are imbued

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with a sufficient amount of love and sincerity for his nation and homeland and for fraternal Iraq that would make the Iraqi Army, which hailed from the army of the Great Arab Revolt, side with them against whoever would violate the strong bond dictated by this immortal brotherhood.

Beloved people, my eagerness to present the facts to the far and near and my care for the interest of Iraq and all the Arabs have prompted these brief, frank words which I intended to be an appeal that would be received very clearly and audible, conveying facts to the fraternal Iraqi people and its Army which made sacrifices for its nation. I am certain that God the Almighty supports the Iraqi people. We support the Iraqi people and our nation stands by it. Each individual with a living conscience who believes in human rights, freedom, democracy, and pluralism stand by the Iraqi people.

May God protect Iraq against evil and help it to restore its security, peace, and decent life and to continue construction and free life, taking its place in its nation as an active contributor and a caller for tranquility, solidarity, cooperation, and magnanimity. God is capable of doing this.

This is our concept of the situation and the future of this nation. When we present fact so clearly, we express the right of our people and the sons of our nation to know the events that are taking place and to take the stand that we all accept, continuing the Jordanian's image of truthfulness and trust which the Arab nation has known in all crises. The Jordanians are the heirs to a revolution, callers for awakening, always choosing the path of God and the truth no matter how arduous the path or how many obstacles there are.

I pray God to grant us success, he is the best of supporters.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Official: Break With Baghdad 'Sealed Totally'

NC2408111995 Paris AFP in English
1040 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Report by Randa Habib]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Aug 24 (AFP) — King Husayn has signalled an end to Jordan's warm ties with Iraq in a fierce attack on Baghdad, which Jordanian officials said Thursday [24 August] amounted to an apology to Arab states for his stand in the Gulf War.

"The break with Baghdad is now sealed, totally and brutally," a senior Jordanian official told AFP.

In a nationwide address the king revealed that Iraq had been planning to attack Kuwait and Saudi Arabia a few days before the defections of two top-level Iraqi officials. And he asked for the first time publicly if Baghdad "had been aware of the danger which resulted" from the outbreak of the 1991 Gulf conflict, following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

"The king is admitting he followed the wrong policies during the Gulf crisis, misled by the acts of the Iraqi regime. This will satisfy Saudi Arabia and Kuwait who broke ties with him because of his pro-Iraqi stand," the official told AFP, asking to remain anonymous. Jordan was snubbed by its Arab neighbours after the war for refusing to take part in the US-led coalition which routed Iraqi occupying forces from Kuwait in February 1991.

King Husayn said Jordan had sought an Arab solution to the crisis, but his "advice had been ignored" and the "conflict was internationalised." Talks with former industry minister General Husayn Kamil Hasan who defected on August 8, along with his brother and their wives, both daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, had been "clearing his vision to the reality of what befell Iraq."

"The king's accusations against the Iraqi regime are the mea culpa awaited by Riyadh and Kuwait. The king is breaking his ties with Baghdad and aligning with the Gulf and US camp," a Jordanian opposition deputy said. He added, however, that the "180 degree about-turn will create a new unease in public opinion still hit by the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty" signed in October.

King Husayn also threw his weight behind Hasan presenting him as a "genuine Arab young man" with a "brilliant mind" who had "played a key role in establishing the Iraqi army" as well as in rebuilding Iraq's infrastructure. "The king promoted General Hasan in his speech, giving him the stature of a head of state and hinting that he considers him a credible alternative to Saddam Husayn," a Western diplomat said in Amman.

The speech, broadcast without comment on prime-time Iraqi television, was hailed in Kuwait. "King Husayn's speech expressed indirectly what the Kuwaiti people want. What we want is to get rid of Saddam Husayn and put the last nail in his coffin," Talal al-Sa'id, a pro-government Kuwaiti MP, told AFP. "If we gain Jordan on our side, we will get rid easily of Saddam Husayn, as we all know that Jordan is the lifeblood of Iraq," he said.

In a bid to reassure his people, the king said he would not close the border with Iraq so as "not to cut off the

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Iraqi people from food and medicines." But he did say that Jordan was looking for "alternatives" to replace its dependence on oil supplies from Iraq of 70,000 barrels per day. Some Jordanians believe the king is expecting Iraq to cut off oil supplies. Economists say Jordan's reserves would last for about 50 days.

The king also called on Iraq to comply with all UN resolutions, not just the destruction of its weapons of mass destruction, before the UN sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait could be lifted. The call was clearly designed to please Kuwait, with which Jordan has sought to heal its five-year rift. Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti is due to travel to Kuwait in September. And on August 17 Riyadh named its first ambassador to Jordan in five years, cementing renewed ties after the strains of the Gulf crisis. The Saudi government paper AL-MADINAH on Thursday for the first time called for an international push to bring down Saddam and his "bloody regime."

Pelletreau Briefs King on Meetings With Leaders

JN2308115195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Aug 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Senior U.S. State Department official Robert Pelletreau on Tuesday [22 August] briefed His Majesty King Husayn on the outcome of talks he held with other Middle Eastern leaders, mainly King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah of Kuwait, on the situation in the region in the wake of the defection of a senior Iraqi official to Jordan.

Also expected to have been discussed by the King and Mr. Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, were American efforts to bring closer the views of Jordan and the Gulf states.

Ties between Jordan and Gulf states were strained because of what the Gulf states perceived as Jordan's support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis triggered by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. However, concerted efforts since then have improved the relations, and the reconciliation process was obviously accelerated by Jordan's decision to grant asylum to Lieutenant-General Husayn Kamil Hasan, Iraq's minister of industry and son-in-law of President Saddam Husayn, who defected to the Kingdom on Aug. 8.

However, Jordan has reaffirmed that reconciliation with the Gulf states would not come at the expense of the strong relationship between Amman and Baghdad despite obvious American efforts to deepen the differences caused by the Jordanian decision to grant refuge to Gen. Hasan, who on Aug. 12 vowed to overthrow President Saddam.

It was Mr. Pelletreau's second visit to Jordan in one week following the defection. Accompanied by Mark Parris, a special envoy of President Bill Clinton, he flew to Jordan last Thursday and held talks with the King and Prime Minister Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir before leaving for Egypt on Friday.

He also visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for talks with King Fahd and Shaykh Jabir before returning to Amman late Monday. He left for home late Tuesday.

An American embassy spokesman said "the objective (of Mr. Pelletreau's visit) was to review (with the King) the recent developments in the region and (to hold) consultations on the talks he held with other regional leaders."

No elaboration was immediately available.

Reports from the Gulf said Mr. Pelletreau had discussed with King Fahd and Shaykh Jabir the possibility of their countries replacing Iraq as Jordan's oil supplier as part of an American effort to isolate Baghdad by severing trade and economic links between Jordan and its eastern neighbour.

However, Jordan, Iraq's only lifeline to the outside world after the U.N. imposed crippling sanctions on the country following its August 1990 invasion f Kuwait, affirmed on Saturday that the Kingdom would not undertake any measures that would undermine its economic interests with its one-time largest export market.

The King has rejected reports that the U.S. was pressuring Jordan to sever its links with Iraq and said Washington had not requested Amman to do anything in this regard.

President Clinton has pledged that the U.S. would defend Jordan against any Iraqi military threat. Baghdad has rejected out of hand Washington's suggestion that Iraq posed a threat to Jordan as a result of the granting of asylum to Gen. Hasan and described it as an American "hallucination."

Iraq's government-guided media have scoffed at what Baghdad sees as U.S. attempts to undermine Jordanian-Iraqi relations. "U.S. efforts to sabotage our relations with Jordan are sterile and ridiculous and nobody can believe that Iraq has massed troops on the border with Jordan," said the AL-THAWRAH newspaper, the mouthpiece of the ruling Arab Socialist Ba'thist party. (The U.S. has spoken only of a perceived Iraqi threat to Jordan and did not make any reference to any troop movement near the border with the Kingdom).

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"Iraq is always keen to develop its relations with Jordan because it is conscious that Washington wants to snow discord and sabotage inter-Arab relations," added AL-THAWRAH.

Replacing Iraq by the Gulf states as Jordan's oil supplier will advance the U.S. quest to isolate Baghdad. But there has been no indication so far that Jordan had sought such an arrangement and had agreed to go along with the American effort to bring in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait into the scene.

Jordan gets 50,000 barrels of crude oil and 20,000 barrels of fuel oil per day from Iraq under an exemption granted by the U.N. Sanctions Committee. Part of the cost of the oil is settled in food and medicine and part is adjusted against Iraqi debts to Jordan incurred during the 1980s.

An unidentified Kuwaiti member of parliament—who was reportedly briefed on Mr. Pelletreau's talks with Shaykh Jabir on Monday—was quoted as saying by the French news agency, AFP, that the U.S. official asked the emir to consider oil supplies to Jordan.

On Tuesday, Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Mid'aj was quoted as saying by Reuters that Kuwait had received no request to supply oil to Jordan but would consider it if the issue was raised in the future.

"We have received to no such request," Mr. Mid'aj was quoted as saying. "If and when we receive it, we will discuss it."

More on Ekeus News Conference, Meeting With Hasan

JN2408094395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Aug 95 pp 1, 7

[Special to JORDAN TIMES; by staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — The U.N. Security Council will have no choice but to lift the sanctions on Iraq if Baghdad fulfills its pledge to implement all the Gulf war ceasefire resolutions, the top U.N. official in charge of disarming Iraq said Wednesday.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission for Disarming Iraq, said Baghdad had promised to cooperate "100 per cent" with his team in ensuring the destruction of all its mass destruction weapons.

With that, Mr. Ekeus told a press conference, "the Security Council, all members without exception, should have no choice" but to lift the crippling sanctions that the U.N. has clamped on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Mr. Ekeus' emphasis on "all members" came in response to a question on whether the United States would veto a Security Council resolution ending the embargo on Iraq in light of its uncompromising policies towards the Iraqi regime.

Mr. Ekeus, who spoke to reporters one day after holding extensive talks with the mastermind of Iraq's weapons programme, Lieutenant-General Husayn Kamil Hasan who defected to Jordan Aug. 8, said Iraq had revealed important and "so valuable" data about its clandestine arms programme.

But he stressed the U.N. had learned not to take Iraqi statements at "face value" because of Iraq's record in concealing information from the United Nations in the four years that have elapsed since the Special Commission started its work.

"We cannot take (the Iraqi statements) at their face value. Every time we have done that before, we were misled," said Mr. Ekeus.

Accordingly, Mr. Ekeus said, his commission will not give Iraq a clean bill of health on its compliance with the Gulf war ceasefire resolutions until it had verified the new data Iraq revealed last week during the commission's four-day mission to Baghdad.

Mr. Ekeus revealed little information about the talks he held with Gen. Hasan to cross-check the information Baghdad provided on its own initiative after the defection of Gen. Hasan, who is former minister of industries and President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law.

He said his talks with Gen. Hasan were held in "a positive spirit" and touched on issues of "common interest."

Mr. Ekeus stressed, however, that Gen. Hasan revealed no information on "Iraq's legitimate security concerns."

Jordanian opposition and political figures have warned against allowing Gen. Hasan to reveal secrets that could harm Iraq's national security. Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has pledged to Parliament that Jordan will not allow the Iraqi defector to do such a thing.

Mr. Ekeus, who refused to reveal where he met Gen. Hasan, said the former Iraqi official had told him "that Iraq must get rid of its weapons of mass destruction... so that (it) can end its political isolation."

"The Iraqi general is in charge of the situation," said Mr. Ekeus, who added that he will not meet with the Iraqi defector during his current trip any more but that further meetings could be held later on.

Mr. Ekeus said that his commission had confirmed that Iraq does not have the ability to produce nuclear

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arms, that it has no chemical weapons of any military significance and that it has accounted for all its long-range missiles and thus poses no threat to its neighbours in that regard.

But, he said, Iraq had concealed significant information about its biological weapons programme and a new team of experts arrived in Baghdad yesterday to examine the new data Iraq provided last week.

"Iraq has up till now concealed, for several years, ...its large biological warfare programme (consisting) of biological warfare agents, weaponised systems," Mr. Ekeus said, adding that Iraq had said it had destroyed all these weapons.

"But we have to also investigate and verify the destruction... It is a complex and difficult tasks," Mr. Ekeus told reporters at the Guest Palace during a press conference that was originally scheduled for Tuesday [22 August] and was delayed with no explanation.

Mr. Ekeus would not say directly if Iraq's new policy of cooperation with the U.N. was prompted by the defection of Gen. Hasan. But he indicated that this was the case by stressing that the change of Iraqi attitude towards cooperation with the U.N. came after Gen. Hasan's defection, with Iraqi cancelling an ultimatum it had given to Mr. Ekeus that if his commission was not done with its work by the end of this month, Baghdad will not cooperate with it any further.

"I'm glad to say that Iraq's highest authority, second highest, during my stay in Baghdad... (said) Iraq will work fully with the U.N. without any time limit," said Mr. Ekeus.

Mr. Ekeus said his team will work with maximum speed to end its mission, adding that Iraq's new cooperative spirit will quicken the process.

"We will make maximum efforts ...to put the Security Council in a position to take the necessary decision to the sanctions," said Mr. Ekeus, who arrived in Amman Monday and is expected to leave Thursday.

But, he said, the speed with which his commission will proceed will depend on continued Iraqi openness towards the U.N.

The U.N. official said Iraq had none but itself to blame for the continuation of the sanctions, saying that its previous policy of concealing information from the U.N. was responsible for the delay in implementing the Gulf war ceasefire resolutions and lifting the sanctions.

Mr. Ekeus said he might go back to Iraqi in September or October because the U.N. commission will have to present its bi-annual report on the results of its mission to the Security Council on Oct. 11.

The report will be "very significant," he said.

"We are more hopeful for the process" in light of Iraq's new policy of full cooperation with the U.N., Mr. Ekeus told reporters.

Mr. Ekeus earlier met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah and briefed him on the outcome of his visit to Iraq.

Ekeus Meets al-Rawabidah Before Leaving Amman

JN2408074495 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, PETRA—'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister, education minister, and acting foreign minister, received Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN commission charged with dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, and his delegation, at his Foreign Ministry office before they left Amman.

Amman, Gulf Leaders Discuss 'Terms' for Saddam

MM2308125095 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 22 Aug 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Jordanian 'Deal' Ensuring Lifting of the Embargo and Continuation of Saddam in Power"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — Observers in Amman see the recent statements made by the Iraqi dissident general (Husayn Kamil), in which he claimed that his defection from Iraq foiled a plan to occupy Kuwait yet again, as a mere desperate attempt to revive the "defection" story after the recent developments, the most important of which were the Iraqi leadership's full disclosure of its military secrets and the change in the Jordanian position evident in its reaffirmation of solidarity with the Iraqi leadership. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Jordanian circles continue to talk about the "scenario" agreed upon by the parties concerned for tackling the Iraqi problem.

Official sources in the Jordanian capital say that the Iraqi president has apparently accepted a Jordanian concept containing terms acceptable internationally and at Arab level for him to remain in power, but some Gulf parties still insist on Saddam Husayn's downfall in return for their approval of and support for an end to the economic blockade.

AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned that Jordan is currently holding special contacts with some Gulf leaderships in connection with what a Jordanian official called new terms for Saddam Husayn to remain in power.

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It seems that the "chance to work" which Jordan asked the U.S. Administration to give it, away from the military displays and the atmosphere of tension, has begun to create a positive atmosphere linked to the so-called terms for the continuation of the "Iraqi regime" in power. The Jordanians are also apparently now playing a mediation role in an attempt to promote agreement on some common denominators pertaining to some sensitive issues with the Gulf states and the U.S. Administration.

A senior Jordanian official has told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI: Saddam Husayn is apparently examining a number of terms conveyed to him through us. When asked about the nature of these terms, the official refused to answer the question but just said that the matter has to do with more military secrets, legalizing the opposition, an intensive military presence on his borders for several years, gradual lifting of the economic blockade, and continuation of the work of the UN inspection and control commissions. [passage omitted]

In Baghdad, responsible sources have denied Kamil's statement about the movement of military units in southern Iraqi last month in preparation for another attack on Kuwait. The Jordanians believe that Husayn Kamil has begun seeking the Gulf states' "favor" by talking about having aborted an expected attack on Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The Jordanian authorities did not take seriously what Husayn Kamil said about the entry of Iraqi groups into Jordanian territory to assassinate him. A high-ranking Jordanian official told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI: That is not true at all.

Observers believe that Kamil was counting on a further escalation of the Jordanian position to cause a change on the ground in Iraq, but local Jordanian and foreign calculations seem to have foiled his plans following continuation of contacts between Baghdad and Amman over the past few days with "reformist" and reconciliatory aims and secondly for the purpose of coordination. [passage omitted]

Paper Cites 'Three No's' to U.S. Plan on Iraq

JN2208194095 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic
23 Aug 95 p 4

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East Affairs, arrived in Amman a few days ago with a fiery mentality, expecting Jordan to easily and smoothly accept his administration's plans to escalate the situation on the Iraqi front to topple the Iraqi regime. However, the U.S. official's fiery mentality and expectations clashed with an unexpected Jordanian stand, which entails three no's, namely, no to severing relations with Iraq, no to participating in toppling Saddam Husayn, and no to U.S. military show of force in the Red Sea.

The unexpected stand prompted Pelletreau to say to one of his aides after his meeting with the government officials: It seems that our mission has failed. Pelletreau's visit, which came in the wake the recent developments, entailed many hidden elements and secrets.

According to our official sources, the U.S. official, who was accompanied by President Clinton's assistant Mark Parris, was in need of another round of dialogue to go ahead with his attempts to convince Jordan of the need to escalate the situation and to exploit the last moment to make a radical change in the region. He also said that Jordan had to meet the requirements of the peace accord with Israel, and at the same time, break the Syrian stalemate by forcing Iraq to participate in the settlement process according to the U.S. conditions. Before presenting his views before the government team, which was led by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Pelletreau sought His Majesty King Husayn's support for his endeavor before discussing the details with the government. However, his majesty, who held an unannounced short meeting with Pelletreau, hinted that the details of the official Jordanian stand on the Iraqi issue must be discussed with the government, not with the palace.

Within this framework, our sources at the Royal Court told AL-BILAD that his majesty the king insisted on considering General Husayn Kamil's defection an individual and personal issue. These sources believe that this royal stand will inevitably save Jordan from meeting the requirements of the political calculations resulting from Jordan's humanitarian stand toward Husayn Kamil and his companions.

According to a senior official at the Royal Court, King Husayn instructed Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd to deal with the results of the Husayn Kamil issue in light of the Jordanian higher interests. This is because giving the Iraqi general royal protection does not mean that the Jordanian Government is involved in any hostile act against Iraq. His majesty's instructions in this regard were very clear. His majesty speaks about the need to effect changes in Iraq and to resolve the Iraqi tragedy. However, the king believes that the government must maintain its stands in light of its political calculations and the higher principles which call for not interfering in other countries' affairs.

In a statement to AL-BILAD, 'Abdallah al-Nusur, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the House of Representatives, said: His excellency the prime minister was very clear and frank when he said

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that Jordan is a sovereign state and that Jordan will not participate in or turn into a base for any move against the Iraqi leadership to effect any change in Iraq.

Regarding Jordan's official sponsoring of Husayn Kamil's news conference, al-Nusur said: My personal understanding is that the whole issue, from a to z, is linked with a personal decision made by his majesty the king. It is a direct message from his majesty that the man, Husayn Kamil, is under his personal protection.

Observers believe that the royal stand stems from a special perception. The palace expected the United States to put pressure on Jordan to participate in removing the Iraqi card from the regional and international calculations. At the same time, the palace was trying, through embracing Gen. Kamil, to convince the Iraqi leadership of the seriousness of the situation so as to effect changes. Also, the palace tried to show disharmony with the U.S. view of events by strengthening the pivotal role of the al-Sharif government in the face of the U.S. scenario. This role is based on a number of objective considerations, the most prominent of which are the popular support for Iraq and the parliamentary mood which rejects official Jordanian participation in the declared plans of Husayn Kamil.

Hence, al-Sharif Zayd informed the U.S. team, with whom he met Friday [18 August] morning, that Jordan does not see any logical justification for the U.S. military show of force in the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea and that Jordan does not agree on the team's view regarding the existence of an Iraqi military threat to Jordan. Al-Sharif Zayd expressed his hope that the Americans will not blow the matter out of proportion. He also reassured them that Jordan knows what it is doing, that it is making delicate calculations, and that it does not seek to create a new confrontation in the region.

The prime minister was not satisfied with explaining these matters. He also informed the U.S. delegation that Jordan has a clear and comprehensive perception regarding the events, noting that the Jordanian leadership has a well-prepared scenario to tackle the situation.

AL-BILAD obtained some information about this scenario, which was communicated to the Iraqi leadership during a series of meetings over the past few days. This scenario concentrates on exploiting the recent development to achieve three objectives together, with a few losses and in a peaceful way that will satisfy all parties, including the Americans. These objectives are: Revealing all Iraq's armament programs, lifting the sanctions gradually, and incorporating Iraq into the political settlement in the region.

Our sources quoted Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir as saying to the Americans: Jordan is holding quiet contacts with the Iraqi leadership. Jordan believes that there is an opportunity to make the internationally-required change without harming the Iraqi achievements or humiliating the Iraqi people and leadership. Later, the [Jordanian] Government asked the U.S. Administration to give it an opportunity to carry out the prepared scenario, along with the possibility that Jordan would give guarantees on the extent of the Iraqi response. Before this, Jordan advised the U.S. Administration not to rely on Husayn Kamil's defection to continue its optimism over the setting of military plans to topple the Iraqi regime.

Information available to AL-BILAD says that Jordanian reports of a security and intelligence nature in this regard were conveyed to Mark Parris, President Clinton's assistant for national security affairs, who accompanied Robert Pelletreau.

The Jordanian stand, which surprised the U.S. Administration, and which was based on a host of objective facts, and which is also supported by the people and parliament, has produced facts following Gen. Kamil's defection that entrench Jordan's pivotal role in the region in accordance with the Jordanian equations and conditions the Jordanian decisionmaker believes should be followed.

Therefore, we should presume that Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti does not speak from a vacuum when he says: We know better how to tailor our policy in accordance with our interests, and when he stresses to AL-BILAD: It would be appropriate for us to conduct our dialogues with others, to reach understanding with them and to cooperate with them. However, it is totally inappropriate to say that our policies with the neighboring states, including Iraq, are formulated in accordance with others' views.

Al-Kabariti says: Our policy is firm and clear. We have a complete concept of events, just as others have their own concept. I believe that Jordan does not have to discuss its policies and stands with other sides.

It is clear, from the course of events, and from analyzing the contents of al-Kabariti statements, that playing tough with the Americans is a well-calculated process which carries a message to the U.S. Administration that its ideas are not always binding to the region's governments.

However, it is also clear that this message has reached the Americans in an extremely calm, diplomatic way. In fact, it was accompanied by a Jordanian scenario advising the Americans not to turn the region's peoples

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into enemies in order to achieve objectives that can be achieved by giving the regional parties their role and opportunity to work.

Still, we believe that the U.S. deal which Pelletreau carried to his majesty the king is based on exchanging the arrangement of relations with Riyadh and Kuwait, and benefiting from their oil, with a partnership to remove Saddam. The Jordanian decisionmaker did not like this deal, at least so far, for Jordan might participate in introducing the change. However, its calculations necessarily differ from the others' calculations. This also applies to its views on the kind, timing, and way to create the required change.

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Palestine Broadcast Comments on Jerusalem Attack

JN2308213395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Aug 95

["Palestine" program: "Talk of the Return"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Strugglers: A state of worry and panic caused by the martyrdom operation in occupied Jerusalem the day before yesterday, which killed seven Israelis and wounded more than 100 others, still prevails over the settlers and rulers of Israel.

Following this operation, the occupation authorities stepped up security measures on buses, roads, public squares, and so forth in order to avoid further martyrdom operations similar to the one in Jerusalem. As is the case after each martyrdom operation, the occupation authorities closed the West Bank and Gaza Strip and escalated arrest campaigns against our Palestinian citizens.

The fate of these recent security measures by occupation authorities will be the same as that of previous security measures which are still in effect. The constant fact confirmed by the Jerusalem martyrdom operation and similar operations before it is that intensified security measures, oppression and arrest campaigns, and terrorist and repressive acts carried out by Israeli occupation authorities and groups of Israeli settlers against Arab citizens and their property will not at all contribute to the provision of security and stability for the Israelis. Moreover, they will not achieve peace because security and stability can only be achieved for the Israelis when they are achieved for the Arab citizens as well.

There can be no security and stability for the Israelis as long as Arab citizens in the occupied territories are subject to killing and terrorism and as long as Israeli settlers continue their attacks and provocations against Arab citizens, and confiscate their lands. There can be no peace for the Israelis unless Israel fully withdraws from all the occupied Arab territories and unless settlements are dismantled and removed from these territories. A just and comprehensive peace totally conflicts with maintaining the Israeli occupation of Arab territories and maintaining the settlements in these territories.

The road to a just and comprehensive peace is clear and defined by international legitimacy resolutions and UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace principle, based on which the peace process was launched. This principle stipulates a full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and on all fronts.

If Israel wants to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and to provide security and stability for the Israelis, then it should commit itself to international legitimacy resolutions and implement UN Security Council resolutions related to the peace process. Without achieving this, instability and turmoil will continue to prevail in the region.

Papers Say Israel Avoiding U.S. Initiative

JN2308120895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Aug 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today under a headline "Syria's Seriousness and Israel's Obstacles," AL-BA'TH says: The Israelis have fallen victim to their own evil deeds and are now trying to hold Syria responsible for the stumbling of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH says: This fact is confirmed by what the Israelis are saying themselves, and by what is said in the international newspapers, which are aware of the Israeli political maneuvers that are hostile to peace and its course. The Israeli papers say in their commentaries that what Israel is facing confirms that it is impossible to attain peace and maintain occupation. Israeli ministers acknowledged that the stumbling peace process produces tragedies. The British papers are also aware of Israel's true intentions. They said Israel has not given the Palestinians anything and is trying to usurp Arab lands and, at the same time, wants to attain peace.

AL-BA'TH says the serious peace is that which Syria has underlined time and again. That peace would give each party its own rights to mark the start of a new transformation that would serve the entire region.

AL-BA'TH stresses that Israel, which is doing wrong to Syria, knows very well that there can be no peace in the region without Syria and that Israel has no option but to respond to right, justice, and the UN resolutions if it truly wants peace for itself and the entire region.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: The false claim that Syria is not interested in the peace process is not believed even by those who sympathize with Israel. The best evidence of this is Syria's acceptance of the land-for-peace formula, which is a U.S. initiative that enjoyed European support. Israel still insists on rejecting and evading this initiative.

In an editorial entitled "Occupation Runs Counter to Peace," TISHRIN says: The partial separate deals have not achieved peace or brought the region a single step closer to peace. Instead, they exacerbated and complicated matters. Israel is, therefore, responsible for this serious deterioration.

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TISHRIN stresses that the peace process is stumbling and is constantly retreating. Disturbances continue in the occupied territories and Israeli aggressions against southern Lebanon are escalating day by day. The Syrian track is completely frozen. Four years after the Madrid conference, peace should have prevailed in the region. But Israel has wasted time and effort. If it continues on this path, it will squander a rare opportunity to achieve a stable and lasting peace in the Middle East that would provide security for all.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: The entire world agrees that Israel's complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, and the occupied Arab territories is the basic key to the desired peace. Israel will be very mistaken if it thinks that it can attain peace while keeping Arab lands and circumventing the UN Security Council resolutions and the principles of international law. Syria sticks to its territory and will not accept any presence by the occupation forces, regardless of how small it may be. The Arabs also stick to their lands. The Israeli rulers must finally choose between peace and expansion.

Commentary: Israel Responsible for 'Stalemate'

JN2408083095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Searching for Causes Before Effects," AL-BA'TH says in its editorial today: Whenever a major or minor incident takes place in the occupied Arab territories, the Rabin government wastes no time in leveling accusations indiscriminately, accusing parties that are both close to and far from Palestine. This time, this government has even claimed that what happened was at the behest of foreign parties.

When the Jerusalem operation took place three days ago, the Rabin government did not wait until the details of the incident were known. It trumpeted accusations and fabrications, involving this or that side in a feverish, hysterical campaign, ignoring the deeper causes of what is happening in the occupied territory.

The newspaper adds: Instead of asking itself about the causes and about its responsibility for what happened, the Rabin government accuses others and misleads public opinion about the real cause of the tense situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and among Palestinians everywhere.

AL-BA'TH asks: What will the Rabin government gain if it continues to disregard the clear facts? Why did the Israeli rulers not ask themselves and the Palestinians who have gotten involved with them about how they have kept the promises they made to the people and told the public via communication networks with the widest circulation?

The time and place are not appropriate to discuss the Oslo details. However, we want to point out that the Rabin government has not honored the deadlines set for this agreement and which it signed. Peres said at the top of his voice that Israel does not view these deadlines as sacred.

AL-BA'TH says that what is happening on Palestinian territory confirms that the Israeli rulers have not opted for peace and have not made a strategic decision about peace. This is why their actions are based on a mentality that condones war, expansion, oppression, and humiliating others. The Israeli rulers also do not hesitate to accuse others of obstructing the peace process.

The newspaper concludes: Peace has one meaning and one road. Occupation is the antithesis of peace. Practicing injustice can only lead to more violent and explosive reactions. Syria is advocating a viable and sustainable peace; a just and comprehensive peace which restores rights and guarantees the interests and security of everyone without any exception; and a peace that is based on the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy, that ends injustice and occupation and restores land and rights to their owners.

Under the headline "Israel's Responsibility," AL-THAWRAH says Israel is responsible for the stalemate in the peace process. Israel is also the cause of all of the consequences of the rising tension. Israel has not abandoned its policy of aggression, expansion, and occupation, and it has not responded to the resolutions of international legitimacy and the spirit of the U.S. initiative. Israel, therefore, does not have a right to demand that anyone abandon his legitimate right to resist occupation. This right is guaranteed by all international norms.

AL-THAWRAH adds that no matter how fast Israel adheres to its positions, tries to mislead the international public, plays with words, and levels false accusations

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here and there, peace can never be achieved without full withdrawal. Also, peace and security can never prevail in the region without a just settlement and a comprehensive solution.

In another commentary under the headline "The Arabs and Europe," AL-THAWRAH says: The European role has special significance in this sensitive and critical stage in the peace process and in light of the current stalemate in this process owing to Israel's procrastination and evasion of the basic requirements of peace.

The newspaper asserts that if it were allowed to take its full dimensions, this role would have a positive effect on the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace that brings security, prosperity, and affluence to the Middle East and the European and Arab Mediterranean nations.

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India

AFP Provides 'Text' of Hostages' Taped Messages

BK2308141695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1401 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 23 (AFP) — The following is the text of a tape recording carrying messages from abducted tourists American Donald Hutchings, Britons Keith Wells and Paul Mangan and German Dirk Hasert played to reporters here Wednesday [23 August].

"My name is Donald Hutchings. This interview is taking place on August 18, 1995. I am fit, well and have no problems. Jane, I love you."

"My name is Dirk Hasert (in a sobbing voice). Today is the 18th of August, 1995. I am well and have no problems. And Anne, I love you."

Silence (then a voice says: "Speak")

"My name is Keith Mangan. Today is the 18th of August, 1995. I am healthy. I have no problems. Julie, I love you very much. Please pass on my love to my family."

Paul Wells: "Today is the 18th of August, 1995. I have no problems. Catherine, I love you. See you soon."

Hutchings: "They (the captors) have just taken our photographs with a newspaper dated August 14. We have no more recent newspapers."

Al-Faran Reportedly Ordered To Execute Hostages

BK2408075695 Hong Kong AFP in English 0745 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Aug 24 (AFP) — India confirmed on Thursday [24 August] that Muslim rebels holding four Westerners had come close to killing their hostages, as negotiators pressed ahead with talks aimed at securing their release.

An official Kashmiri spokesman in New Delhi would not elaborate on talks with the Al-Faran separatist group, but confirmed that the Indian Army had intercepted a coded message Saturday, ordering the group to execute the four.

"We know that there was a message to Al-Faran from across the border (Pakistan) to execute the hostages," he said.

Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, American Donald Hutchings, 42, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, were abducted between July 4 and 8.

A fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, was found beheaded in the first week of August.

"Our priority is to solve the crisis," the spokesman said a day after the Kashmir administration released photographs and tape- recorded messages of the hostages in Srinagar.

The four said they had "no problems" in the cassette offered as proof of their well-being. Officials also displayed photographs of the hostages dated August 14 and individual snaps of them holding placards bearing the date August 18.

But sources said the negotiators on Thursday demanded "real-time proof" from the Al-Faran, believed to be holding the four in a 8,000-foot (2,666 metres) southern Kashmir meadow called Ishben.

The demand has been conveyed to the Al-Faran by Kashmir police inspector-general Rajinder Tikoo, the chief negotiator, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the London-based Independent and Times dailies reported that the Clinton administration averted the ordered executions by urging Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to intervene

Islamabad denied the reports overnight as "totally false."

"(The reports) appeared to be based on briefings from Indian sources who are maliciously seeking to establish a connection between Pakistan and the abductors," the Pakistan High commission said here.

India described the Pakistani denials as "understandable" saying Bhutto's alleged intervention in the crisis had "embarrassed" Islamabad, which wants to distance itself from the renegade Moslem separatist group in Kashmir.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting trouble in the divided state. Islamabad, which administers the southern third of Kashmir, denies the allegations but extends moral and diplomatic support to the violent campaign.

The bickering between the two rivals, who have fought two wars over Kashmir, continued amid speculation that New Delhi was likely to relent to Al-Faran's demand for a swap to end the hostage crisis.

They said a possible deal between New Delhi and the Al-Faran was being cobbled in which three jailed rebels, reportedly Afghans and members of the hardline Harkat-ul-Ansar group, would be given safe passage to Pakistan.

The three figures are on the list of 15 jailed rebels whose release is being demanded by Al-Faran in exchange for the four tourists, sources said.

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Highly-placed Indian officials described the transfer of the militants to a Punjab prison as "purely administrative," but did not categorically deny the reports of a possible swap.

India says the Al-Faran is an offshoot of the Harkat, which kidnapped two Britons last year and released them unharmed after 17 days.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir since 1989 when the guerrillas stepped up a campaign against Indian rule.

Efforts for 'Safe' Release of Hostages Reported

BK2408100395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Center is trying for the safe release of the foreign tourists in Jammu and Kashmir through a process of dialogue and persuasion and by appealing to the sense of reason and humanity among those responsible for the abduction.

The minister of state in the prime minister's office, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, informed the Rajya Sabha today that the government has avoided any precipitate action which could jeopardize the lives of the hostages. He said a continuous and close watch is being kept on the situation and further necessary steps will be taken to secure the safe release of the hostages. He said the government is taking necessary steps to check this and prevent infiltration of foreign mercenaries into the state and as many as 79 foreign mercenaries have been arrested and 295 killed. He said they belonged mainly to Pakistan and Afghanistan. Mr. Chaturvedi said Pakistan continues to be involved in infiltrating terrorists and has increasingly included foreigners to maintain a high level of violence and subversive activities in the state.

Daily Views Strengthening of Indo-U.S. Relations

95ASO467A Jalandhar PUNJAB KESARI in Hindi 17 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial:"The Relations Between India and the U.S. Are Getting Stronger"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There is a happier turn in the relations between India and the United States. It was believed till now that the mindset of the United States was set in favor of Pakistan. In the last two decades, during the cold war between the United States and Russia, especially after the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, an uncontrollable tension had developed between India and the United States. After the Russian entry in to Afghanistan, the United States had started equiping Pakistan with modern weapons as an agent for its (U.S.) own political interests. After the establishment of Bangladesh, the United States tried to raise Pakistan's profile as compared with India's. In Nehru's time, the United States supported India fully during the India-China war of 1962. However, from Mrs. Gandhi's regime up to Rajiv Gandhi, wherever the United States took Pakistan's side, India was attracted toward Russia, and the United States began to confront India openly. No doubt the United States was sympathetic toward India during the second world war. History is witness to the fact that during the second world war President Franklin Roosevelt had advised the British Prime minister sir Winston Churchill and kept up the pressure to make India free. There are documents available to show that in 1962, President John F. Kennedy, supported India fully in the war between India and China. However, after that the tensions kept on increasing.

Now, since last two years, there is a marked difference in the behavior of the United States vis-a-vis India. There are some reasons for this change. The cold war between the United States and Russia is over. One of the great powers of this world the Soviet Union, has broken into pieces. After the withdrawal of Russian forces from Afghanistan, the (Strategic) importance of Pakistan to the United States is over. Most importantly, under the economic liberalization policies adopted by the Narasimha Rao government, India has surged as the world's biggest market. More over, last year when Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao met the U.S. President Mr. Bill Clinton, it became very clear that India—U.S. relations were going to improve. Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao made it clear to the U.S. administration during his trip that in this new policy of openness, Indian companies have been waiting to welcome the U.S. companies in India and the president and the administration also accepted that to avoid giving due importance to the world's largest democracy India would hurt only U.S. political and economic interests. Looking at all those facts the United States has changed its attitude toward India. There is a change in U.S. policy also. A softening in the U.S. views about the terrorist activities in Kashmir and Punjab and the result of all this is evident now. The U.S. ambassador in India, Mr. Frank Wisner has been playing a very important role in this improvement in the relations between India and the United States. Mr. Frank Wisner has already undertaken a trip to Kashmir in the last few days. Many indications from his trip are available to conclude that the United States favors holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir and will not support anyone, including Pakistan, connected with the arms supply or violence in Kashmir. Sources close to the U.S. ambassador indicating satisfaction at his recent four days trip have said that there is a positive turn in establishing a democratically elected government in

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Kashmir. Mr. Wisner's four days trip and his speeches during the trip have been disappointing for all the forces of disturbance including Pakistan. As a result of this, the terrorists have caught and held five western tourists as hostages for the last two weeks. The terrorist groups have not been able to accept U.S. opinion in favor of the elections and invitation to all parties to participate in the elections. During his visit embassador Wisner made it very clear to the leaders of All Parties Hurriat Conference including Mr. Shabir Ahmed, Mr. Abdul Ghani Loon and Mr. Saiyad Ali Shah Jilani and to the president of Jammu and Kashmir liberation front Mr. Yasin Malik that they will have to talk to the government of India in order to avoid total destruction and to move the situation off dead center. He also said that they will have to participate in a democratically held election. Mr. Wisner also rejected any possibility of U.S. involvement, as a third party, in resolving the Kashmir dispute. Mr. Wisner's statements during his trip to Jammu and Kashmir has resulted in great disappointment in Pakistan and the terrorist groups it supports in the valley. Prior to Mr. Wisner's trip, groups opposed to India were hoping that with U.S. support, they could put pressure on the government of India to hold the plebiscite in Kashmir. The above mentioned comments by Mr. Wisner demonstrates the change in the U.S. attitude toward Kashmir. Mr. Wisner has also said that the questions about the accession of Kashmir in the Indian Union and the independence of Kashmir state and related other questions are best forgotten and the people of Kashmir should try to find a peaceful way out of the present situation. Apart from this trip to Jammu and Kashmir and the comments about the destruction of human rights and the worries of the government of India to stop them are all indicators of the changing attitudes of the U.S. government.

The statement by the U.S. President Mr. Bill Clinton in a conference in Chicago makes it clear that the Clinton Administration is trying to improve relations with India. Mr. Clinton, in his address also said that he is proud of the fact that the relations between India and the United States have been improving since he became the president of the United States after the end of the cold war. Mr. Clinton also said that apart from ending the cold war, we have a chance to bring these two great democracies together. He also said that taking India's nonalignment and the political realities forced both countries to take decisions that put pressure on their relations. He said that people of Indian origin who have served U.S. administrations are to be thanked for their work.

Until now, the U.S. administration used to avoid any public criticism of Pakistan, but there is a change in the situation. Clinton, U.S. ambassadors, democratic and republican congressmen, U.S. generals and even the officers of the world bank have begun issuing statements against Pakistan. Only recently a special task force on terrorism organized by the republican congressional committee has said that Pakistan and some other Islamic countries, apart from fostering violence in Jammu and Kashmir are deeply involved in the international terrorism. This report of the task force lists three important internal reasons for Pakistan to emphasize the Kashmir problem. It is feared in the report that the level of violence in Kashmir will rise in the coming days. The report also discusses in detail the involvement of Pakistan in the activities of the extremists and the terrorists in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Admiral Richard C. Mackay, the chief commander of the U.S. Pacific fleet, in a testimony given to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs has informed the house that considering the needs of India for nuclear arms and missiles, there can be no parity between India and Pakistan. This is the first time that the head of a U.S. military service has considered the strategic needs of India and Pakistan as different matters. It is admiral Mackay's opinion that Pakistan's competition with India in connection with Kashmir is an important matter and it is drawing some attention. Admiral Mackay also said that apart from the cold war, the defense relationship between India and the United States is a great example of how defense contacts can expand political relations. [passage omitted]

In this article I have placed before readers a picture of the changing U.S. attitudes toward India. In my personal opinion, under the leadership of Mr. Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao the way the two countries have come closer to each other, there is great promise that our relations will be even closer in future. With U.S. cooperation and support in the future, India can emerge politically as one of the great powers in South and South East Asia.

Article Exposes 'Falsehood' of U.S. Foreign Policy

BK1908163595 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 16 Aug 95 p 4

[Article by Rai Singh: "What Does Mr Clinton Expect From India?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Writing a letter in the first week of August to Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, the U.S. President, Mr Bill Clinton, has tried to prove that his initiative of resuming the supply of arms to Pakistan would not only cement U.S.-Pak relations but it would prove advantageous to India as well, although he did not clarify as to how Pakistan's receiving the U.S. arms

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would give any advantage to India. He did however remind Rao through his letter of the speedy progress that Indo-U.S. relations have made after Mr Rao's 1994 U.S. visit. Perhaps Clinton's intention behind making this mention was to impress upon Prime Minister Rao that if the latter wanted Indo-US relations to continue developing at this speed, he should not object to the former's initiative to resume supplying arms to Pakistan.

The U.S. Ambassador in Delhi, Mr Frank Wisner, had informed the U.S. State Department through his report that, looking at the present political situation in India, it was unlikely that the Rao government would oppose Clinton's initiative of resuming the supply of arms to Pakistan; and the other political parties of India were also not expected to raise much hue and cry about it. Wisner sent this report to Washington after personally meeting many leaders of India's political parties. It is said that the opinions of the U.S. State officials and even that of the Indian Ambassador in Washington almost concurred with the assessment of Frank Wisner concerning both the Indian political situation and the Indian reaction to the initiative taken by the U.S. President to resume supplying arms to Pakistan. Although the spokesperson of the Indian Embassy in Washington has denied it, the impression gained from the explanation of the Indian Embassy's spokesperson seems to suggest that initially the Indian ambassador appeared to avoid direct opposition to Clinton's initiative. Wisner had suggested through his report that if Clinton could write a letter to Narasimha Rao to explain the purpose of his initiative, it was likely that Rao might not oppose the initiative openly, though he would not support it either. Heeding Wisner's advice to the U.S. State Department, Bill Clinton sent the letter to Mr Rao.

It is true that during Pakistan's Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto's last Washington visit, Clinton had assured her that despite the Pressler Law, he would see to it that the advance money paid by Pakistan to the United States for the F-16 bombers' deal was refunded to Pakistan. In addition, he had also promised to arrange for the resumption of the United States' economic aid to Pakistan besides making U.S. planes, radar, and other weapons worth $370 million available to Pakistan. It was owing to this magnanimous gesture that Clinton chose not to raise the nuclear issue with Benazir at all. It was because of this that Senator Larry Pressler commented, and rightly so, that without ensuring Pakistan's stopping its nuclear weapons' production, Mr Clinton, by making all these U.S. weapons and planes available to Pakistan, was indirectly encouraging Benazir to continue with Pakistan's nuclear weapons development program. Bill Clinton seems to have made the resumption of arms to Pakistan a personal prestige issue, which is apparent by the efforts being made by Clinton himself, Vice President Al Gore, and the defense secretary, William Parry, at their individual levels and by their talking and writing to the senators. They all are out to gather the senators' support for Clinton's initiative. But Mr Clinton committed a blunder by sending his letter to Mr Rao before the 4th August, because it was on that very day that Senator Brown presented his amendment proposal before the Senate, which was rejected, and which also jeopardized Mr Clinton's initiative. Later, when Senator Brown tried to present his enlarged amendment proposal again, the leader of the majority party of the U.S. Congress, Bob Dole, on the plea that since it was a very complicated issue and more time was needed for discussion, had it taken back. In other words, Clinton himself ruined the chances of his initiative's bearing fruit by showing unbridled enthusiasm. These happenings in the U.S. Senate offered a good opportunity to Rao, who took full advantage of the situation and refused to accept Clinton's initiative .

Now the question is: what made Clinton so desperate as to send off his missive to Prime Minister Rao so soon, especially when he was not sure of his initiative's success in the Senate? The first reason, perhaps was this: having mentioned the speedy progress in Indo-U.S. relations he wanted to impress upon Rao that should he not side with and plead for the United States in the controversy generated by the Maharashtra Government's scrapping of the deal with the U.S. Company, Enron, Indo-U.S. relations could again become sour. It means that Clinton not only wanted no adverse Indian reaction on his initiative to resume the supply of arms to Pakistan, he also wanted to pressure the Indian Government into making it favor the U.S. multinational company, Enron. But Clinton's move to kill two birds by one stone failed miserably. Its failure was caused basically by two things. First, public opinion against giving the power project to Enron had already been generated on a very wide scale and Mr Rao was not prepared to take the risk of openly opposing it. Second, there was strong opposition from the Jewish lobby in the U.S. Senate to the Clinton initiative to resume supplying arms to Pakistan. Senators Carl Levin, Paul Sarbanes and Larry Pressler so vehemently opposed the initiative that the Senate had no scope left to even consider it. So much so, that when giving an explanation for his amendment proposal to the Pressler Law, Senator Brown himself confessed that his amendment proposal was not against the Pressler Law nor did he himself favor resuming the supply of weapons to Pakistan. He only wanted to plead for resuming economic aid to Pakistan through his amendment proposal. But even this part was not conceded by Senator Hank Brown.

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Although Clinton's letter to Prime Minister Rao mentions only briefly about how the United States proposed to resume economic and military aid to Pakistan, the details of the modus operandi are available in a letter dated 2d August from U.S. Defense Secretary Perry to Strom Thurmond, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. In that letter Mr Perry referred to military aid for Pakistan worth approximately $370 million. But according to Indian and U.S. defense experts, its net worth is now more than $500 million, as the U.S. price list gives the price of weapons estimated about five to seven years ago. It means that the cost of the weapons has deliberately been shown to be less to show that the United States is not giving to Pakistan a large enough amount of weapons to disturb the regional military power equilibrium.

Mr Perry has claimed in his letter that despite Pakistan's receiving these U.S. weapons and military equipment, Indian military power would continue to be double that of Pakistan. Before assessing the veracity or falsehood of Mr Perry's claim, it is necessary to know what kind weapons the United States is planning to sell to Pakistan and in what quantities.

According to U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, Pakistan is likely to receive from the United States three PC-3 Orion reconnaissance-sea-fighter planes; the missile 'Harpoon', capable of destroying ships, the amount of which is not specified; mortars; anti-cannon radar; howitzers (cannon with long range); F-16 bombers; and Cobra-helicopters, which the United States had already arranged for Pakistan, along with parts and equipment for their efficient maintenance. In his letter Mr Perry also referred to the 28 F-16 bombers that Pakistan had already paid for and which are to be now sold to some other country to recover the money. This money is to be deposited in Pakistan's trust fund in Washington and eventually this money will be returned to Pakistan to settle the advance payment Pakistan made for the F-16 deal. At present negotiations are underway to sell the 28 F-16 planes to either Indonesia or the Philippines. These countries are being advised to buy the F-16's to fortify their defense against a possible future confrontation with China. Moreover, since these planes are not expected to be available at the cheaper rates later, or immediately, it would be wise of Philippines and Indonesia to buy these F-16 planes immediately from the United States. Although these two countries have shown interest in buying the F-16's, no final decision has yet been taken.

Mr Perry claims in his letter that if Pakistan's receives P-3C planes, it will pose no danger for India. His plea that with these planes Pakistan would be? able to hit targets only up to Kochin from Karachi is wrong because currently Pakistan has no frigates to use these planes effectively. Whereas India has two frigates needed for this job: INS Vikrant and INS Virat. On another score, Perry's argument in favor of Pakistan is not tenable, because India has to guard its coastal region, which is twenty times more than that which Pakistan has to guard, besides keeping surveillance on the naval activities in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. So comparing India's naval needs with that of Pakistan is a basic fallacy.

There is no doubt that at present Indian Air Force's MiG-29's and Mirage-2000's can easily subdue any air attack by enemy planes. However, the United States has for quite some time been also willing to give AIM-91 missiles to Pakistan. If the United States succeeds in its designs, Pakistan will outweigh India in defense preparedness. To match the Bofors guns of India, the United States wants to give Pakistan 155 MM M-I-91 Howitzer guns to fortify Pakistan's military strength.

In the light of these facts, the claim made by Mr Perry that giving weapons to Pakistan is not at all an anti-India activity is a white lie. A still whiter lie is the U.S. assertion that by giving these weapons to Pakistan it wants to fortify Pakistan's military strength not against India but against Iran!

All of these anti-India activities have blatantly exposed the falsehood of Mr Clinton's professed foreign policy. The first and foremost objective of Clinton's foreign policy is to make the U.S. multinational corporations derive maximum advantage from India's huge market by all possible means. Should India resist the multinationals from fleecing it in the national interest or prevent them from earning exorbitant profits by their adopting foul or unfair means, the U.S. ambassador in Delhi is there to put pressure on the Indian governor, as was witnessed during the case of Enron. And should India try to resist this U.S. pressure, the United States is ever ready to magnify the Kashmir issue or other issues to create problems for India. And if India still refuses to give in, the United States can always instigate its protege, Pakistan, whose source of strength only lies in U.S. weapons, to provoke India to an armed confrontation.

Minister Views Cause of 'Slump' in Pakistan Ties

BK2008072595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has said Islamabad's refusal to resume dialogue with India is the main reason for the slump in bilateral relations between the two countries. He was talking to newspersons in Kanpur today. He said

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India will desist from entering an arms race but made it clear that it will not compromise on its security.

Defense Official in Moscow for 'Working Group'

BK2308041695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Indo-Russian working group meeting on defense cooperation begins in Moscow today. The defense secretary, Mr. K. Nambiar, arrived in the Russian capital yesterday to attend the session. He is expected to review the progress made since the first meeting of the working group in December last year. He will also discuss specific issues of defense cooperation between the two countries under the framework of the Indo-Russian agreement.

Editorial Views 'Surge' in Foreign Investment

BK2008145895 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 19 Aug 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Still a good bet"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Contrary to the popular perception, that the signs are slowly turning ominous for foreign investment in India, foreigners still seem to regard India as a good bet for making money. That perhaps explains why there has been a surge in foreign institutional investment in July. This was the most important factor propping up the markets, especially after Sebi [Securities and Exchange Board of India] aborted the birth of the new forward trading system. Net FII [foreign institutional investor] investment in July increased to $211.2 million, the highest level in the past 12 months. The reports also indicate an inflow of $60 million during the first week of August. Brokers point out that, if it were not for FII inflows, the market could have dipped below the 3200 mark.

The signs are propitious for continued FII inflows. Last month, the US Federal Reserve lowered its federal funds rate a quarter of a percentage point to 5.75 per cent. With gloomy forecasts of a recession building up in the US economy, the stage seems set for a return of flight capital to the emerging markets. But it is also possible that this may yet be some way in the future, as end-of-July figures indicate that moderate growth may persist in the US economy.

But there are signs that US share prices have reached far above the normal valuations, and that seems to be prompting a search for better priced alternatives. What better alternative than India, with valuations of 15 times 1996 earnings? More importantly, US investment firms are reported to be flush with cash, partly because of the money released by a rash of takeovers. It is true also that some of the money flowing into the country's stockmarkets is due to the fact that valuations here are cheaper than in the GDR [expansion unknown] markets.

In South East Asia and the Pacific, on the other hand, the region normally seen as competing with India for FII investment, the regional economies are near, or at the peak, of their business cycles with monetary policy slowly tightening. FIIs have predicted a slowdown in earnings in several of these economies for the rest of the year. That should be good news for India, as Indian corporate growth shows no signs of letting up, and the first quarter results of several large corporates have been very encouraging.

The revival of FII interest in India is heartening, coming at a time when the Indian political scene is plagued with major uncertainties, when xenophobia is likely to be an election year feature, and when sentiment is down at the bourses due to Sebi's ham-handed handling of forward trading. The FIIs have always bought for delivery, and their interest in the forward trading system was limited to the increased liquidity which would enable them to buy and sell large blocks of shares without overly affecting prices.

The FIIs' actions should by now set at rest apprehensions about their being short-term peculators, withdrawing their money at the lightest hint of trouble. The Indian experience clearly shows that the FIIs have invested for the long-term, and the lure of high earnings growth is strong enough to outweigh other considerations. All that is really essential is the creation of a depository and better settlement stems, and the FII trickle could well turn into a flood, especially after the election.

Article Addresses Recent Election, 'New Bond'

95ASO467B New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 20 Jul p 4

[Article by Mahip Singh: "The Election Has Been Held But What's Next?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Finally the elections for the "Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee" (Delhi Sikh Temple Management Committee) are over. The Last (such) election was held in 1979. According to the rules, the next election should have been held in 1983. The Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee was formed under a resolution passed by the Parliament in 1975. In the same resolution, apart from many other things, there was a provision to hold elections based on adult franchise every four years, to elect a general body consisting of 46 members. However, this election took place after sixteen years-12 years too late. Why did it take so long? First the central government was afraid or was made to fear that the extremists would take over the

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committee if the elections were held in time. In those days the Punjab problem was in its most intensive stage and the extremists were completely in command of Sikh politics. Therefore this thinking was very strong at the time. After that, the committee that was elected in 1979, activated many members who wanted to avoid holding an election at any cost. They took full advantage of the extremist bogyman. Everytime there was any talk about holding an election, they would rush to the government and would present the specter of the extremists taking over this committee with a budget of millions.

Up to the 1979 elections the Congress had good rapport with the Sikhs. The Shiromani Akali Dal, in Punjab politics, has always remained a major competitor of the Congress. It has branches in other parts of the country but is not very effective in local politics anywhere else due to the low percentage of the Sikhs. In New Delhi there are enough Sikhs that they can make an impression upon the local politics although they cannot make independent political gains. Therefore the Akali Dal has given its greatest attention to New Delhi after Punjab. The Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee of New Delhi is second only to that of Amritsar in importance and resources. Number of Gurudwaras connected with the memory of Sikh Gurus in New Delhi far exceeds any other city in Punjab. This committee is in charge of those Gurudwaras.

Sardar Santokh Singh was the Jatthedar (group leader) in charge of Sikh politics in New Delhi for some 20 to 25 years after independence. In his politics, he had assured a seat for himself with the central government, at the same time he also kept up a love-hate relationship with the Shiromani Akali Dal of Amritsar. As his personal influence increased at the center, he began to separate himself from the Amritsar based Akali Dal. He created a separate Akali Dal in New Delhi in the name of Master Tara Singh. The election in 1979 was mainly a test of strength between the Akali Dal of Amritsar and Congress supported Akali Dal of Sardar Santokh Singh. In the election the parties got 22 seats each. After that the events moved swiftly. Jatthedar Santokh Singh was murdered. Then Operation Blue star, the assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi and the riots of November 1984 etc... These events reduced even further the Sikh interest and feelings for Congress. Most of the supporters of Sardar Santokh Singh joined the main Akali Dal. Rachpal Singh (Tara Singh) Akali Dal was the only one left cooking his rice in a separate earthen pot. He was planning to take the place of Jatthedar (Group leader) Santokh Singh and he also wanted to collect all the advantages from Mrs. Indira Gandhi that used to be available to Sardar Santokh Singh. People like those also wished to avoid a new election for the committee. The role that he played during the Punjab problem had destroyed any chances for his election to the new committee.

Many people and organizations tried to get a new election for this committee in 1990 when the Janata Dal government was at the center and air marshal Arjun Singh was the lieutenant governor of New Delhi. Arjun Singh even took some steps in this direction and issued orders to prepare new voters lists. However, in a very short time, the Janata Dal government fell and Mr. Arjun Singh was no longer the lieutenant governor and the matter stopped there.

In last year's elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] had made some promises to the Sikh electorate of New Delhi. One such promise was that they would hold elections to the Delhi Gurudwara Committee as soon as possible. In the state elections Sikh voters supported the BJP with a large majority. That was the only way of removing the Congress from power. There is no doubt that the way [Chief Minister] Madanlal Khurana developed his relations with Sikh voters at all different levels in a way that hardly any one else from the BJP would have been able to do. Many Sikh organizations and intellectuals reminded him over and over again his promises to the Sikh voters. After a writ petition to the supreme court, even the court issued an order that the elections for the general body must be completed before the end of May 1995. After much opposition and many obstructions the dates for the elections were decided and the elections were carried out.

In these elections, there was no competition for the Akali Dal like there was in the 1979 elections. Congress supporters Mr. Rachpal Singh and Talbinder Singh Bharavah made their own groups and ran their own candidates. However every one of them lost and most of them lost their deposits. Mr. Rachpal Singh got only 80 votes. Akali Dal candidates won 34 places. There were 9 independents. Out of these 8 were from the rebel Akali Dal.

These election results make certain things very clear. First, the Sikh population likes the unification of different Akali Dals in Punjab. The public was pleased, whenever they saw Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, Mr. Gurucharan Singh Tohra and Mr. Surjit Singh Barnala on the same stage. Secondly, any candidates who could be accused of being close to Congress were totally rejected. There was some effect of the appeals made by a group of intellectuals called 'The independent initiative'. Their priority was to defeat the candidate with the Congress image and claim victory for the Akali Dal candidate. Wherever people did not like the official Akali Dal candidate, the rebel Akali Dal candidate won.

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Shiromani Akali Dal had issued a manifesto prior to the elections. This (Manifesto) covered almost all the points that the intellectuals have been raising. Two of them are the main points-one, to establish an independent board of education consisting of educators and other knowledgeable civilions to operate the schools, Colleges and other educational institutions (they total more than 20) that can run these institutions without any interference from the Gurudwara Committee. Second important point is-to establish a finance committee and to appoint a financial controller to control and administer the income of the Gurudwara Committee.

There are two mainstreams of corruption in the Gurudwara Committee. The members of the old committee used their control of the educational institutions for different corrupt practices. The chairmanship of a school or College is very attractive. It is not only a position of social prestige, one can oblige many people with special considerations, but also indirectly, it is a tool to receive many economic benefits. The public complaints against many members of the last committee was that thousands of rupees were lost in getting the appointment of a teacher or a professor or in trying to get admission to the (desired) school or college. There are many such sources in the educational institutions where money can be made with corrupt practices.

Similarly, taking the Gurudwara's own bank vault, provides for many corrupt practices. With a budget of approximately 20 Crore (Rs. 200 million) corrupt people in the old committee had created many openings. Much of this corruption in the income streams of the Gurudwaras and the educational institutions can be stopped if their bank vaults can be controlled.

The question is, will the newly elected members allow this to happen? They have been elected after spending hundreds of thousands of their own rupees, will they allow these sources to get out of their hands? Using this (Position) medium they can achieve not only some social and political prestige but also get back all the money they have spent in the election along with interest.

This elections will provide the Akali Dal with a major political advantage. For some time in Punjab, the Akali Dal, by winning the byelections of Ajnala and Gidadwala, has been on the way to regain the lost prestige and popular base that it had. The Parliamentary elections are coming within a few months. If the Akali Dal succeeds to any measurable extent in that election, then winning in the Punjab legislature, the Dal's dream of forming their own (Non-Congress) government can take real shape.

However, the Akali Dal's future success depends to a great extent upon how they handle their success in the Delhi Gurudwara Committee, and how they develop their image in Delhi. There is no doubt that the majority of the members of the last committee were involved in shameful and corrupt practices and therefore their prestige was affected and their image was spoiled. If the same things continue, their (Akali Dal's) opponents will have the stage and they will gain a handle to beat them with. [passage omitted]

Just as the Sikh voters have been removed from the Congress in this election cycle, similarly they have formed a new bond with the Bharatiya Janata Party. The BJP stands to reap the benefits of the this new healing that has taken place in Sikh popular opinion. The Congress will not like this at all. If the new Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee does not do any useful work and if they keep up the same behavior (as the last committee) then Congress will be successful in breaking this new bond (between BJP and Sikh opinion).

Article Lauds Supreme Court Decision on Hindu Sect

95AS0463B Calcutta BARTAMAN in Bengali 20 Jul 95 p 4

[Article by Pabitrakumar Ghosh: "The Supreme Court Saved Hindu Society"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It would be inadequate to call the Supreme Court verdict in connection with the Ramakrishna Mission case merely historic. This verdict has saved Hindu society from an appalling danger. The verdicts on the same case given first by a judge of the Calcutta High Court and then the division bench had opened a way to splinter Hindu society. At the grace of God, with the verdict of the Supreme Court, that fear has been removed forever.

Under which rules the Rahara Vivekananda Centenary College would be guided or who would be responsible for the administration of that college was a local problem and a limited issue. But the judgement of the Supreme Court did not remain confined to that small boundary. It analyzed and explained the Hindu religion and the overall features of the Hindu society from a broader perspective and fixed a definition for it. After this there will be no scope for making fancied statements, lodging imaginary claims or forcefully imposing opinion in this regard. It won't be possible to hurt the Hindu society from inside.

None of the involved parties speculated that the outcome of a case filed by a few Rahara college professors could be so far-reaching. Both the plaintiff and the defendant

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desired only an interim solution to the momentary problem. To the professors the primary issue was the security in their job and the running of the college administration as per government rules and regulations. The Ramakrishna Mission wanted to keep the schools and colleges under their control and to run them according to their own liking. The conflict started from the different attitude and purpose of the two parties and as a result, the case emerged. It took a total time of 14 years, 4 months and 10 days [18 December 1981 to 2 July 1995] to finally settle the case.

None of them bothered with the Hindu religion or society. Neither the professors nor the Ramakrishna Mission looked beyond their own interest. Lately, compared to other things, the professors brood more on their rights and demands, hold agitations and also fight cases. Thus, there was nothing novel in the steps that was taken by the Rahara college professors.

But the Ramakrishna Mission proceeded in an unusual manner. They declared themselves in the court as non-Hindus and at the same time said that Sri Ramakrishna [founder of the sect] was not a Hindu and Swami Vivekananda [important disciple of Ramakrishna] did not propogate the Hindu religion.

Even though such a claim was made in court, it was not the trustworthy statement of the Ramakrishna Mission. They know that in religious and philosophical beliefs, austere practice and prayers, worship and meditation, and also in customs and rituals the Ramakrishna Mission was always one hundred percent Hindu and has also remained the same today. Their baptized followers were assured likewise that in future too the Ramakrishna Mission will remain Hindu.

Even when such belief was existing in the Ramakrishna Mission internally, they adopted a completely different tune in the court. Filing an affidavit in the court on behalf of the Mission, Swami Ramananda said that Sri Ramakrishna pursued and preached a new religion. The salient features of this new religion are: one, Sri Ramakrishna was himself an embodiment of eternal religion. Two, no religion considers any other religion as genuine, but Sri Ramakrishna acknowledged all religions as equally real. Three, Sri Ramakrishna's religion or cult considers that the same eternal truth is ingrained in all religions of the world and that is also the basic theme of all religious scriptures. Four, the Sri Ramakrishna cult preaches the similarity between all religions. Five, this new religion does not criticize any other religion. Six, there are scriptural sanctions in other religions on food consumption, but that is not existing in Ramakrishna religion. The last significant feature is that the followers of the Ramakrishna religion could freely participate in the celebrations of any other religion.

Referring to a total of 12 salient features of the Sri Ramakrishna cult, Swami Ramananda said that because of them they are the claimant of a new non-Hindu religion. In both the verdicts, the Calcutta high court accepted his demands. But the Supreme Court rejected the axiom of Swami Ramananda's affidavit. In a proxy to Swami Ramananda, the Ramakrishna Mission gave a detailed account to the court on the concept of the Ramakrishna religion. As it was found to be extremely malicious, the Supreme Court rejected it.

In order to foil the demands of the professors and at the pressure of momentary needs, the long deliberations of the Ramakrishna Mission in the court crossed the limits of its sincere belief. All through the Mission was aware of the fact that the statements and questions in the court made on their behalf did not manifest their belief. Those were only the gimmicks for winning the case.

If the case was settled at the two verdicts of the Calcutta high court, then the outcome of the Ramakrishna Mission gimmick would have been vicious for the Hindu society. That is why the whole of the Hindu society was astounded and all the monks and baptized devotees were pained, indignant and bewildered at the attitude and behavior of their most revered supreme heads of the Mission. The people who loved the Ramakrishna Mission were dumbfounded with astonishment.

Such apprehensions also emerged that if the followers of Ramakrishna and Vivekananda were recognized as non-Hindus, then the Hindus in India would turn into a minority because the Hindus in this country are the followers of Ramakrishna and Vivekananda. If at the verdict of the court these people were placed in the non-Hindu list, then in the next census Hindus would be shown as a minority. This would be the inevitable outcome, especially in South India, where each and every Hindu house bears the pictures of Ramakrishna and Vivekananda. The way the Hindus worship Ramakrishna and Vivekananda in each and every house in South India is not found even in West Bengal [where these two personages belonged historically culturally]. If at the verdict of the court they were declared non-Hindus, then a Muslim majority would be immediately established in South India and help create a second Pakistan. This is the view of Dr Karan Singh [former head of the state of Kashmir]. He said it from the bitter experience of Kashmir.

A similar painful expression was made against the verdict of the Calcutta high court in a special leave petition filed by 105 persons on behalf of the Hindu society. The Supreme Court paid importance to this

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petition, but a passionate appeal of a Hindu monk had stirred up the judges. In this case of the Supreme Court, Brahmadutt Bharati was seeking separate judgement as a sole member of the Hindu society. Along with the written brief his attorney placed before the Supreme Court the enclosed appeal of that undaunted monk, known as Swami Mriganand a.

In his appeal the Swami said that he was a Hindu monk of the Ramakrishna stream. As a Hindu monk and citizen of India he was gravely concerned with the arguments of Sri Ramakrishna, his disciples and their followers on the subject of Hindu egotism. A great confusion was noticed in the Hindu society at the declaration made by the Calcutta high court that Ramakrishna temples and missions and Sri Ramakrishna himself were not Hindu and thus, those religious temples and missions would be declared as non-Hindu organizations. He said: "Ramakrishna was a Hindu, he would always remain the same and so are we. In the interest of the Hindu people, the Supreme Court should not only consider whether the Ramakrishna temples or missions are Hindu establishments, but it should also make an overall consideration of the matter in such a way so that all doubtful issues in connection with that subject are resolved once and for all. Otherwise such kind of debates will continue tension in the society, disturb social stability and equilibrium, create confusion in the genuine identity of different Hindu sects and crumble many permanent institutions."

Swami Mriganand a made a fervent appeal to the Supreme Court for fixing a definition to the word 'Hindu'. He said that it should spell out what the word 'Hindu' means in good, bad, meaningful and purposeful senses. Sri Ramakrishna in his endeavor to achieve union with the God has revived different Hindu views and paths, but told everyone to be devoted to his own selected path. In this way he has widened the scope for establishing genuine unity among different Hindu sects and their branches. The Swami opined that the Supreme Court should uphold this issue.

In the views of Swami Mriganand a a tendency was recently noticed to quit Hindu society for the purpose of gaining more opportunities as minorities. Ramakrishna Mission declaring itself non-Hindu would further enhance that tendency. But what is required now is to establish unity among all sects in the Hindu society. A bright and strong image of the Hindu religion should be built by consolidating the different splintered theological forces. The Supreme Court has to give such a verdict that would enable all Hindu sects to embrace each other and declare themselves as a segment of a bigger Hindu society. The Swami said: "Instead, with the declaration of the Ramakrishna Mission as a non-Hindu organization, I am suffering from a serious mental agony, anxiety and tension for the past one decade. A life and death issue has emerged before the Hindu people, the Hindu religion and the Hindu culture. If in this manner one group after the other quits the Hindu society, then how could we preserve our tradition and even existence, including its truth and overall reputation? I appeal that the Hindus be given relief without any further delay from this anxiety and tension ."

The Supreme Court has shown respect to the appeal of the Hindu monk and also fully responded to it. As a result of it the case filed by the professors of a college gained such a wide perspective. The question that was raised due to the conflict of interest between the two parties has largely widened its sphere crossing the boundaries of momentary and narrow limits. With the verdict of the Supreme Court the worries, anxiety and fear of crisis in the Hindu society was removed. It will also resist any attempt to foment the splitting tendency in the society.

Considering the issues — what the Hindu religion means and whether or not Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda were Hindus and their proclaimed views were different from the Hindu religion — the three Supreme Court judges announced their firm decision. The unanimous decision of the division bench composed of Justice Kuldip Singh— Sikh; Justice S. Sagir Ahmed — Muslim; and Justice Venketachalaiya — Hindu; as read out in the court room by Justice Venketachalaiya. Their verdict read: "Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda were Hindus throughout their life. In some earlier cases the constitution bench of the Supreme Court has already given its interpretation of the Hindu religion. There is no discrepancy between that interpretation and the views preached by Ramakrishna and Vivekananda. Whatever Sri Ramakrishna has said on the Hindu religion and the Hindu way of life; the statements of the world's great scholars, philosophers, historians and the disciples of Sri Ramakrishna on his protection, revival and rejuvenation of the Hindu religion; and the speeches of Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda prove that they were only Hindus and preached Hindu religion until the last day of their life, and that they never abandoned their Hindu faith and identity."

According to the judges both the verdicts of the Calcutta high court were contrary to the interpretation already given by the Supreme Court on the Hindu religion. The high court has accepted the existence of the Ramakrishna religion as separate from the Hindu religion. "But in our views the existence of the Ramakrishna religion is untenable and unacceptable", said the division bench of the Supreme Court.

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Article Views Congress 'Appeasement of Muslims'

95AS0465C Jalandhar PUNJAB KESARI in Hindi 25 Jul 95 p 4

[Article by Professor Vijay Kumar Malhotra: "Government Help to Haj Pilgrims is an Example of Congress' so-called Secularism and an Example of Appeasement of Muslims"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A perfect example of the deformed Congress policy on secularism and appeasement of Muslims is the provision of financial assistance to them for undertaking Haj pilgrimage. This monetary assistance is unconstitutional, against all regulations and is discriminatory. According to the 14th Article of the Indian Constitution - "The state within the State of India will not deprive any person of equality amongst others and the legal protection in the eyes of law." In other words everyone will be treated as equal and the state will not discriminate against anyone.

Article 15 states that "The State will not discriminate against any citizen based on religion, original caste, sex, place of birth or anyone of these." According to Article 25, "Abiding with social order, good manners and health, and under other provisions of this Article all people will have freedom to choose, follow, practice and preach religion and the right to do so." The Constitution also defines the word "secular" to mean that all religions are equal.

The most unconstitutional and objectionable part of this financial assistance is that it is provided only to those Muslim pilgrims who are headed for "Haj". The government does not provide any such assistance to Hindus, Sikhs or Christians for going to their holy places either within or out of India.

On August 3, 1994 in response to my question number 1117, Mr. Salman Khursheed, in the upper house of the Parliament, provided statistics on the number of pilgrims going for "Haj", amount of financial aid, approval of the foreign exchange amount etc.

The concluding part of my question was, "Is similar state assistance available to Pakistan bound Hindu-Sikh pilgrims, and if yes, provide its details? In response Mr. Salman Khursheed said that any such assistance was not given to Hindu-Sikh pilgrims going to Pakistan. The government only provides organizational assistance to Pakistan bound pilgrims. In information provided later it was officially stated that the Christians going to Vatican in Rome and Kailash Mansarover in China [Tibet] are not given any financial assistance.

Why this discrimination? The issue is can the government funds be used or should be used to preach and advance any one particular religion or to the members of a particular community to perform religious services. Is it not unconstitutional and illegal?

During the religious ceremonies and assemblies like Kumbh, Urs etc., and other religious processions the government arranges for and organizes facilities in consideration of health and sanitation, and they should do it. It is governmental duty to provide toilets, to maintain cleanliness, and to provide for medical assistance on these occasions. We can understand government organizational assistance on occasions like Holi, Diwali, Id, Guruparv, Christmas Day etc.

It may also be reasonable to provide temporary accommodation, sanitary facilities, cleanliness and medical care for the "Haj" bound pilgrims in Delhi, Bombay, Lucknow, Calcutta etc., but to give cash assistance to every "Haj" pilgrim is unconstitutional, discriminatory, and tears secularism to pieces.

The official statistics on the government assistance provided to "Haj" pilgrims is as follows: (a) Under the arrangement made by the Haj Committee this year (1994) approximately 25,000 Indians went on this pilgrimage. Of these 47,000 [as published] took the sea route and the rest flew. In addition, about 15,000 Indians travelled on their own. (b) As arranged by the Haj Committee the pilgrims were offered foreign exchange equivalent either to 5,500 or 4,600 Saudi Rials. A total of equivalent of Rs.1,069,939,387 was provided to the Haj pilgrims. (c) Under the arrangement made by the Haj Committee the travellers only pay the cost of Haj travel which is much lower then the charter fare. For 1994 Haj travel the fare was only Rs. 12,000 (about $400). The charter fare was fixed at Rs.17,000 or about $567. The government will write off an estimated difference of about $350 million.

Under Haj Committee travel arrangements the government defrays the difference between the going sea fare and the amount of fare paid by the passenger at Committee Haj fare rate. For the year 1994 this difference amounted to approximately two million dollars.

Additionally, to ease the hardships of the sea pilgrims from Andaman Nicobar Islands caused by the withdrawal of the M.B. Nicobar, in 1994, air charters were arranged at a cost of over three million dollars from Madras and Calcutta to Port Blair."

No financial assistance was provided to the Haj pilgrims to buy their requirements of foreign exchange. Prevailing commercial exchange rate was used.

According to Salman Khursheed every passenger who flew received a sum of Rs.5,000 as subsidy which amounted to a total of about $3.5 million. The passengers who took the boat were subsidized to an extant of

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about two million dollars. Since the sea going vessels were removed from Andaman Nicobar Islands the government had to pay an additional three million dollars in subsidy to retain the charter flights. In other words in 1994 the government provided about $8.5 million in state assistance to Haj going pilgrims.

Recommendations of the Transportation Committee:

The permanent Parliamentary Committee on Tourism and Transportation in its budget request for 1994-95 appropriations has made the following recommendation: (All Parliamentary permanent committees have proportional representation from all parties).

"The Air India and Indian Airlines arrange charter flights for the Haj passengers, and the loss they incur is made good by the government as subsidies to the airlines. The 1994-95 budget had an appropriation of almost $5 million for this purpose. The 1993-94 budget had a provision of about $3.2 million but the actual expense incurred was four time of this figure and amounted to about $11.5 million. This year (1994-95) this amount is estimated to cost about $25 million. This amount happens to be almost a quarter of the total budget of this department. The Committee considers it a very large amount and the subsidy should be gradually taken back.

The related Permanent Committee on Foreign Affairs has also commented on this subject, and in the context of its first report dated April 27, 1993 had with the consensus of all of its members recommended gradual withdrawal of Haj subsidy. The referenced paragraph in the report reads: "The government should gradually decrease the monetary assistance given to the Haj pilgrims and should finally end it."

The Permanent Committee on Tourism and Transportation in its 1994-95 budget related request in its last paragraph states, "The government has made a provision of about $2 million to subsidize the Shipping Corporation of India for the round trip sea transportation of Haj pilgrims during 1994-95. The Permanent Committee is of the opinion that this subsidy should be put to an end."

The Conclusion of the Permanent Committee on Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

The Permanent Parliamentary Committee related to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its 1994-95 budget request presented to the Parliament has given the following comments:

Paragraph 24 - "The 1993-94 budget had a provision of about eight million dollars in the state assistance for the State Bank of India to provide foreign exchange at the official rate to Haj passengers. The Committee was informed that in 1993 the number of Indian Haj pilgrims going to Saudi Arabia will be about 25,000. The government has decided to give foreign exchange equivalent of 5,500 Rials to every passenger. Till last year Haj passengers, like any other pilgrims, were exempt from the conservation tax on 15 percent of the foreign exchange. In January 1993 it was decided that foreign exchange will be made available for Haj pilgrimage at the official rate and the official rate of the foreign exchange.

Iran

Radio Addresses King Husayn's Speech on Iraq

LD2408120995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0956 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] King Husayn of Jordan last night, in a television message, spoke about developments in Iraq and sharply criticized Saddam Husayn's policies. He announced that he will not spare any efforts towards helping the Iraqi people to save themselves from their present dilemma. [passage omitted]

King Husayn emphasized that Jordan stood alongside the Iraqi people and supported the territorial integrity, national unity, and the national movement of the Iraqi people towards democracy and freedom. He said that Jordan would not surrender to the threats and pressures of Baghdad. Political circles have described King Husayn's remarks and the stance he has adopted towards the government in Baghdad as important developments. Many commentators have even said that his remarks are indicative of a fundamental reversal in Jordan's policies and in Amman-Baghdad relations.

Under the leadership of King Husayn and during Saddam's rule, Jordan has been a consistent and close ally of Iraq and a supporter of Saddam's regional policies. [passage omitted] Jordan's special relationship with Iraq adversely affected its relations with the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf littoral.

Political analysts believe that under present circumstances, when the countries of the region are attempting to increase their cooperation and ties and when the United States is trying to mold the shape of these ties in ways that would enable the Zionist regime to become an integral part of the region, it is necessary for Jordan to increase its relations with the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf littoral. This is specially so since, on the one hand, it appears that sanctions against Iraq will not be lifted yet and that Jordan could benefit more from its relations with the Persian Gulf littoral countries than with

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Baghdad. On the other hand, with peace between Jordan and Israel, Amman could be turned into a bridge for the expansion of relations between the Zionist regime and other countries that favor compromise with Israel. In this way, Jordan will contribute to the objective of drawing in Israel into the economy of the region.

Even though Jordan's concerns about Iraq's threats had prevented this reversal in its policy, the adoption of such a policy became possible because of U.S. support for Jordan. On the other hand, some political commentators consider that King Husayn's remarks indicate that the ground is being prepared in Iraq to topple that country's government. These commentators believe that the escape of Iraqi generals from Baghdad, the information they have disclosed, as well as the contacts between U.S. officials and King Husayn to explain U.S. policy towards Iraq, have all contributed to make King Husayn feel sure that Saddam's situation will not only not improve but will, on the contrary, become all the more weak. In this respect, King Husayn, by reversing his policies, has turned his back on the government of Iraq in a bid to improve his position and the prospects for cooperation with the Persian Gulf littoral countries.

SAIRI Head Comments on Iraqi Regime's Problems

NC2308141095 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 14 Aug 95 p 15

[From the News Desk]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, the head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has given an exclusive interview to a JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent. He said he is dubious of the recent developments in Iraq and the escape of Saddam's sons-in-law.

He said: With regard to the recent developments in Iraq, we sent a message to the Iraqi people and asked them to be vigilant. He added: It is possible that the United States will want to capitalize on this opportunity and may back a replacement for Saddam. Therefore, the people should be alert.

He added: We stated earlier that there are vast differences within the ruling apparatus. Saddam's failure to resolve the basic problems in Iraq, including inflation and the economic embargo, are indications that Saddam has lost his control of the situation in Iraq. In order to regain control the regime has resorted to suppression and killing people.

He added: This has resulted in disarray inside Iraq and the undermining of the regime. Hence, the expulsion of Saddam's brother Watban and the flight of his sons-in-law are evidence of the regime's disintegration from within.

In conclusion, the SAIRI leader stated: The situation will continue to remain turbulent until Almighty God delivers the Iraqi people from the clutches of this regime.

Commentary Questions Motives for Iraqi Defections

NC2408084595 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Aug 95 p 14

[Commentary by Sa'id Khakrend: "Why Did Saddam's Family Members Defect?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite Saddam Husayn's two fugitive sons-in-law stating they sought asylum because the Iraqi regime lacks credibility and because of the tribulations of the people of Iraq—and there is no doubt these are two main factors in their hardship and tribulation—their action is more of a reaction to the internal power battle within the administrative system.

Ever since he assumed power, Saddam has placed greatest trust in the members of his family and tribe and delegated the most important civil and military portfolios of his government to them.

His reliance on his family peaked during the Persian Gulf war, such that Saddam's relatives grabbed most of the leading and decisionmaking posts. It was then that Saddam's sons 'Udayy and Qusayy seriously entered the political and military arena in Iraq and assumed control of important centers in the administrative system.

With an increase in the power of Saddam's sons—'Udayy took control of the special 35,000-strong military unit loyal to Saddam known as the "Saddam Fedayeen" and Qusayy was in charge of the activities of the Iraqi intelligence service—internal dissent reached a climax among the power-seeking factions of Iraq's ruling clique and intense differences surfaced between 'Udayy and General Kamil Hasan.

There is no doubt that with Saddam's two sons-in-law seeking asylum in Jordan along with 30 other affiliated elements and high- level intelligence officials, such as "Wafiq al-Samarra'i," the recent clashes between the Presidential Guard and the "al-Dulaym" tribe in al-Ramadi, who are staunch supporters of Saddam, clashes in which hundreds were killed or wounded, indicate the severe uncontrollable crisis within Saddam's administrative structure.

The Americans, who have been seeking a suitable successor for Saddam for ages, an alternative [preceding

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word in English] who should have no Islamic perspective or links with the Islamic movement in Iraq, consider this crisis in the Iraqi ruling party as the best opportunity for creating this change. They are trying to contact these two defectors and forge links between them and other opponents of the Iraqi regime who toe the pro-U.S. line so that they can pave the way for changes in Iraq that would conform to U.S. interests.

Weapons Information From Baghdad, Defector Viewed

NC2408064495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 24 Aug 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rolf Ekeus, the head of the special commission for Iraq's disarmament, revealed in Amman yesterday that Iraq had admitted equipping its missiles with biological warheads containing a large quantity of anthrax—a bacteriological material. According to Ekeus, before the Persian Gulf war and the occupation of Kuwait, Iraq equipped its missiles with these warheads.

No details about the information or its authenticity—details Ekeus claims to have received—have emerged. But political observers believe Baghdad and General Kamil Hasan, acting unanimously [mottafeqan], placed the information at the disposal of the special UN emissary.

Ever since the defection of General Kamil Hasan, the architect of the Iraqi arsenal of weapons of mass destruction and the head of the country's ordnance industries, Baghdad has striven to preempt him in divulging the information desired by the United Nations. This has placed the UN emissaries in a better position to obtain information.

Iraq had been hopeful that by submitting the necessary information on its weapons of mass destruction to the special UN team it would convince the Security Council to lift the embargo against Baghdad. But it appears that with the new situation that has emerged, especially in view of the flight by Saddam Husayn's sons-in-law, who can be considered an important repository for such information, this hope has waned into chagrin.

Ekeus' remarks yesterday indicate that a new dossier on Iraq's biological weapons has been opened. This means that a fresh investigation into its details and the scale of Iraq's biological weapons will be carried out and the embargo will remain in effect.

Syrian Envoy on 'Arafat Statement, Iraqi Defections

LD2408095895 Tehran IRNA in English 0917 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 24, IRNA — Syrian Ambassador in Tehran Ahmad al-Hasan said that PLO leader 'Arafat's anti-Iran statement was pure fabrication and had no truth in it.

Speaking to the English-language daily IRAN NEWS al-Hasan, also the dean of the diplomatic corps in Tehran stated, "Iran has sympathy with the genuine combatants in occupied Palestine and that sympathy is confined to moral and political support only."

Commenting on remarks made by 'Arafat who blamed Iran for the bombing by a suicide bomber in Jerusalem Monday [21 August], the ambassador said, "'Arafat denounced Iran for (allegedly) funding Islamic activists who are fighting against the usurper Zionist regime of Israel for the liberation of their homeland."

He also disclosed that the high-level tripartite meeting of Iran, Syria and Turkey will start on September 6 in Tehran and will be followed by the meeting of the three countries' foreign ministers the next day in the ancient and historic city of Isfahan.

"The main topic of discussion will be northern Iraq for which the tripartite meeting has been held biannually after the Persian Gulf war in 1991," al-Hasan announced.

The foreign ministers of Iran, Syria and Turkey could not meet last March because of Ankara's incursion into northern Iraq to crush Kurdish rebels there, the daily wrote.

"Iran, Syria and Turkey firmly believe that Iraqi territorial integrity must remain intact," he underlined.

The United States made much of the defections of Iraqi President Saddam's sons-in-law along with their wives to Jordan, he said, adding, "they focussed too much on the defectors to justify their own presence in the (Persian Gulf) region."

Scoffing at the U.S. statements that Iraq will repeat its blunder and attack Kuwait again, the ambassador stressed, "I know Saddam is unpredictable, but there is no doubt that this was not the right time for him to engage in military adventurism."

The defections were a big success for the United States as they now have a very influential member of Saddam's family directly under their control, he noted.

"Kamil Hasan has worked at the most sensitive posts such as weapon and oil industries and can give useful information to the United States," he confirmed.

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This defection is more important because the people involved belong to Saddam's clan and they have had access to all the secrets of that regime, the ambassador said. That is why the defection is a great blow to the regime in Baghdad, he added.

"But, what is going on in Iraq is in the interest of the Zionists and against those of the Arab world," he stated.

"In the recent past we have seen certain Russian and French activities in the region, particularly in Iraq, which alarmed Washington," al-Hasan said, adding that the United States wants to be the sole master of this strategically important region.

He concluded by saying that the United States wants no rivals in this oil-rich part of the world.

Ministry Spokesman Rejects 'Arafat 'Allegations'

LD2308112495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0954 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of an explosion in Beyt ol-Moqaddas, the Zionist regime threatened revenge against the Hamas movement.

Yesterday, the Palestinian Islamic movement of Hamas accepted responsibility for the blast and termed it as part of the struggle against occupation and oppression. Meanwhile, a spokesman for the [Iranian] Foreign Ministry rejected 'Arafat's allegations on Tehran's involvement in the attack and condemned the allegations as some opportunistic remarks without foundation. The spokesman asked that 'Arafat admit his mistakes, respect the wishes of the suffering people of Palestine, give up attempts to find a cover-up for the failure of the sell-out plan, and stop supporting hostile propaganda of the Zionist regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Zionist regime's efforts to blame Tehran for such attacks as the Jerusalem bomb blast is not a new phenomenon. Tel Aviv has repeatedly resorted to this weapon in the face of the rising tide of nations' struggles to determine their own destiny and to realize their rights.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has frequently condemned terrorism and, at the same time, has demanded that the Zionist regime's state terrorism also be condemned by the international forums. It seems that blaming foreign factors is becoming the norm and is gradually used as a weapon by those weak statesmen, who ignore the people's wishes and legitimate rights of the nations.

The fresh efforts of the leader of the Gaza-Jericho self-rule branch are undertaken in line with the hostile policies of the Zionist regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran. These efforts are just another example of blind obedience by those who are trying to hide the facts by finding a cover-up for their failures.

After signing the Oslo compromise deal, the Zionist regime tried to put 'Arafat in charge of crushing the Palestinian Intifada. The plan was to turn the anti-Zionist struggle into a confrontation between the Palestinian groups. But thanks to the self restraint demonstrated by the combative Palestinian groups, this conspiracy was foiled. Now it seems that the Zionist regime is striving to exploit the plight of 'Arafat, whose status has been downgraded to the level of a local official appointed by Tel Aviv, to implement its hostile policies against Tehran. But the failure of this mission can be predicted in advance, the same as other missions assigned to the leader of Gaza-Jericho self-rule plan.

'Daily' Criticizes U.S. Peace Proposal in Bosnia

LD2108113395 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 21, IRNA — An English-language daily in its Monday [21 August] editorial on Bosnia crisis wrote the only fair solution is to give the Bosnian people the right to defend themselves, that is the arms sanctions against them have to be lifted.

The American peace initiative is based on the previous formula, worked out by the Western contact group, which divides the Bosnian territory on the basis of 49 percent for the Serbs and 51 percent for the Muslims and Croats, IRAN NEWS added.

The editorial reiterated that the White House proposal would seem to indicate that the Americans have forgotten that the Serbs consistently turned down all peace proposals, including the one based on land division.

But the most crucial question the architects of the peace plan have to answer is whether it is fair to reward a group of criminal rebels, it said, asking if this is a correct procedure why then didn't the allied countries return to the axis forces all territories they had captured at the end of World War Two?

Referring to paragraph three of the peace plan, the paper noted, "This is an equally surprising suggestion, because the White House knows very well that U.N. forces cannot even protect themselves against the Serbs."

It stressed that the cities of Zepa and Srebrenica, which had been announced safe zones under the U.N. supervision, fell into the hands of the Serbs where they committed the most heinous crimes.

"The White House seems to have been turned into a real estate agency," it said adding, they have suggested,

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for instance, that Gorazde be traded with lands around Sarajevo.

In fact this is very similar to the plan they have proposed to the Palestinians, it underlined, "in both cases the U.S. supports the aggressor and then asks the oppressed people to enter into contracts with the aggressor according to which they will have to forget all crimes committed against them in return for lands which belonged to them in the first place."

Lebanese Minister Visits, Meets With President

LD2308175395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president today received Walid Junblatt, the Lebanese minister for refugee affairs and leader of the Druze Progressive Socialist Party.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his happiness about the establishment of calm and stability in Lebanon and the progress made in the affairs of that country. He said: Tehran continues to support Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity against the regime occupying Jerusalem.

The president described as positive and constructive Syria's role in the fight against Israel's plots. He said: We are, as ever, ready to help Lebanon and the innocent and defenseless people of that country, particularly the war refugees.

Mr. Junblatt described the cooperation between Syria, Iran, and Lebanon as necessary. He said: The Lebanese people need the establishment of national unity. He said Syria's steadfastness and the strength and might of the Islamic Republic of Iran were an important factor in the fight against Israel's plots.

He also gave a report on Lebanon's sociopolitical situation and thanked Iran for its help.

Mr. Junblatt also met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati today.

Discusses Security, Economic Issues

LD2308181695 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 23 (IRNA) — Lebanese Minister of State for Displaced Persons and Lebanese Druze Socialist Progressive Party leader [titles as received] Walid Junblatt here Wednesday [23 August] met with Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Junblatt briefed Besharati on political, security and economic conditions in his country and said security conditions were an outcome of cooperation among all Lebanese groups.

He lauded Tehran-Beirut bilateral "cordial" relations and called as "strategic" relations between Iran, Syria, and Lebanon.

He called on Iran to extend further support for his country.

Besharati in return said that today all were aware that Lebanon was more independent and honourable than in the past.

He said that the world looked at Lebanon differently and called on Lebanese officials to strive for maintaining those positions, which led to Lebanon's independence and an increase in Lebanon's gaining the confidence of nations, communities and organizations.

Envoy Cited on 'Strategic Dimensions' to Oman Ties

LD1908150995 Tehran IRNA in English 1411 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 19 (IRNA) — Relations between Iran and Oman have taken on strategic dimensions, Iran's Ambassador to Oman Siavash Zargar Ya'qubi said in an interview with IRAN NEWS published on Saturday [19 August].

Ya'qubi said the two nations' ties were rooted in 50 centuries of common history and culture and for the same reason, there were many phenomena, which had spread to Oman from Iran such as qanats (underground water canals) excavated in Oman centuries ago.

He said that one of the qanats was nearly as long as the Great Wall of China and due to this historical background, the two countries enjoyed extensive, cordial, and high-level relations.

He added that the schedule for visits of the two countries' officials had been drawn up for consideration of political, economic, and cultural cooperation.

The Iranian official said that Iran and Oman had held the first session of their joint political committee and agreed to set up a technical sub-committee to control their borders against smuggling and drug trafficking.

He further noted that the technical sub-committee would make the necessary coordination between the two nations' customs offices and coastguards.

He said that special messages on political cooperation were exchanged between the heads of the two states by couriers.

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Meanwhile, Oman's Foreign Minister Yusuf Bin 'Alawi will travel to Tehran by August and the Omani Parliament speaker would visit the country within the next two months.

Ya'qubi went on to say that efforts had been made to further regulate Iran-Oman economic cooperation and added that merchants have been permitted to open trade offices in Oman.

As of the second half of the current Iranian calendar year, Iranian launch owners are permitted to travel to Oman and stay there for a week without a visa, Ya'qubi said.

The two countries' willingness to cooperate in the Bukha and Hengam Oil Fields has paved the way for further cementing of bilateral ties, he said.

"A specialized committee has been set up for exploration of oil and gas in this field," Ya'qubi said, and added that European nations have agreed to finance the project which is expected to be implemented within the next two or three years.

Experts have estimated that this oil field has around 1.4 billion cubic meters of gas.

The ambassador said the joint venture between Iran and Oman could serve as a good example for other nations in the region.

"We have held several successful economic fairs in Oman. Another specialized exhibition is to be held in Oman in October by the Kerman Province and Tehran's municipality to pave the way for export of Iranian goods including spices," Ya'qubi said.

He said Oman's minister of trade recently visited Iran at the head of a high-ranking delegation and reached agreements with Iranian officials. The Omani Delegation also travelled to Kerman Province and examined economic possibilities there.

The Iranian diplomat emphasized that the annual Iran-Oman transactions, which so far amounted to between dlrs. 700,000 and dlrs. 800,000, were expected to rise to dlrs. 20 million this year.

He added that the figures, of course, belonged to the official Iran-Oman trade, but if the unofficial figures, derived from the export of Iranian goods to Oman via the United Arab Emirates, the volume would be much larger.

Ya'qubi said that Iran's Minister of Roads and Transportation Akbar Torkan was scheduled to visit Oman this year.

Referring to the recent visit to Oman of the commander of Iran's Naval Forces Rear Admiral 'Ali Sham'khani, which was widely welcomed by the Omani news media, Ya'qubi said that a joint maneuvre of naval forces between the two countries had been slated for later this year.

Meanwhile, the Omani warship Almabrouke recently arrived at the port of Bushehr and in the future Iranian warships will visit Omani ports reflecting the scope of Irano-Oman military cooperation, he pointed out.

"A timetable has been drawn up for two years of cultural cooperation between Iran and Oman," he said, adding that the first instance of such cooperation was Iran's Cultural Week held in Oman early this year, where Iranian handicrafts were put on display.

Armenian President Seeks Help on Karabakh Problem

LD2108090195 Tehran IRNA in English 0841 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 21, IRNA — The Armenian president, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, in a meeting Sunday [20 August] night with visiting Vice Speaker of Iranian parliament Hassan Rowhani said Iran's assistance would help solve Karabakh problem, thus creating ample ground for regional economic cooperation in future.

Addressing his Iranian guest, Ter-Petrosyan called the visit as an important and appropriate opportunity to upgrade the current high-level and friendly ties between the two neighboring countries, paving the way for vast future cooperation.

The vice speaker of Iran's parliament, while referring to the recent parliament elections in Armenia, called for improvement of parliamentary cooperation as well as promotion of bilateral political and economic ties.

He underscored the importance of the security of the Caucasus region and hoped for a breakthrough in the Karabakh crisis, leading to the restoration of peace and security in the region.

Rowhani added that contrary to some countries who seek to fish in troubled waters, the national interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran are secured in the light of regional peace and stability.

Trade Accords Concluded With Turkmenistan, Armenia

LD2208183795 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA — Experts of Iran, Turkmenistan and Armenia on Tuesday [22 August] concluded some trade agreements including

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one proposing setting up a joint transport company, during their three-day negotiations in Tehran.

The tripartite meeting also underlined the need for cooperation among three countries in the field of energy.

Iranian deputy foreign minister, Mahmud Va'ezi who led Iranian delegation to the meet [as received], expressed pleasure with the outcome of the negotiations in transport, energy, commerce and banking areas.

He appreciated the good-will shown by participants in the meeting, hoping that the forthcoming meeting of Iranian, Turkmen and Armenian foreign ministers in Yerevan in September would be successful.

Heads of Turkmen and Armenian delegations thanked Iran for its constructive role in the talks and voiced their resolve to implement the accords signed in Tehran today.

Commentary Views Oil Cooperation With Kazakhstan

NC1908151595 Tehran SALAM in Persian 10 Aug 95 p 8

[Commentary by M. Veysi: "What Kind of Cooperation Should There Be on Oil in The Caspian Sea?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iran's cooperation with Kazakhstan on its oil sales and export deliveries were reportedly among the topics discussed at a meeting between Foreign Minister Velayati and President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan in Almaty.

The Islamic Republic of Iran—with its strategy of broadening multilateral cooperation with Central Asia and the Caucasus—needs to pay attention to the economic needs of these countries. The foreign minister's remarks on boosting trade exchanges in order to increase confidence and trust are indications of this strategy.

However, due to the presence of various conflicting elements in the regional equation, the following points merit mention:

1. The current legal status of the Caspian Sea has not been decided and the Islamic Republic of Iran—as well as Russia, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan—consider the use of its underwater and subterranean mineral resources illegal.

2. The littoral countries of the Caspian Sea wish to expedite utilization of this Sea's resources, especially oil and gas, for their own economic development. Foreign, especially U.S., oil companies have begun investing in assessing the regions potential for oil and gas transfer to international markets.

3. The transport routes for oil and gas to the region are actively or potentially under the control of Iran and Russia, both of which—whether for political, economic, or strategic reasons—are not ready for even the slightest cooperation with U.S. companies. They are opposed to their presence in the region and any other routes except those through Iran and Russia are speculative.

4. Iran is under a United States oil and trade embargo and U.S. companies—except those operating in the Caspian Sea—have been banned from cooperation with Iran. This exception is due to their weakness in transporting their petroleum products to world markets.

Under these circumstances, the adoption of certain policies by our foreign ministry seem necessary:

1. Prior to any commitment by our country in the export or sale of oil extracted by the countries or companies operating in the region, one should adhere to the original stance of determining the legal status of the Caspian Sea.

2. A strategy on cooperation, or lack thereof, with U.S. companies in the region, whether in the form of a consortium or the transport of their products through intermediaries in the eastern or western part of the Caspian Sea, is necessary as double-dealing or contradictory measures will be harmful.

3. When signing agreements with the regional governments—in order to pre-empt any non-acceptance of Iran in the consortium for extracting Azerbaijan's oil—it is essential the sides signing the agreement be named, that is, whether it is the government, the consortium, or a private company, and the level of their share in the final decisionmaking be specified.

4. The decisions adopted should maintain our cooperation with Russia and regional countries, foster goodwill among them, and take advantage of the weak points of U.S. companies in the region.

Commentary Welcomes Tajikistan Joint Protocol

LD1908160095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 19 Aug 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After a week of mediation by the UN secretary general's special envoy to Tajikistan, a joint protocol [preceding word in English] was signed on 17 August between the Tajik Government and the opposition alliance. This document contains six articles and was signed by President Emomali Rakhmanov of Tajikistan and Sayed Abdullo Nuri, the leader of the Tajik opposition alliance. [passage omitted]

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Political experts who have studied the negotiations and the agreements reached believe that the document is a very important step towards reaching a lasting peace, political stability, and national reconciliation in Tajikistan.

The new agreement in Tajikistan is important because the document forms a new basis for the next round of peace talks, which are due to be held on 18 September.

Of course, the foundations of this agreement were laid during the tripartite negotiations with the presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Tajikistan and the leader of the Tajik opposition in Tehran at the end of June. In these negotiations, all sides agreed on the need to achieve peace and stability in Tajikistan through talks. This would not have been possible without the effective and outstanding role played by Iran which, from the start of the Tajik crisis, has done its utmost to find a solution to the crisis. Following the recent agreement, both sides stressed Iran's good will in its mediation efforts. [passage omitted]

Majles Official Departs on First Stage of Tour

LD2008143595 Tehran IRNA in English
1424 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA — Majles Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hassan Rowhani left here for Yerevan Sunday [20 August] heading a parliamentary delegation on the first leg of a three-nation tour which will take him to Georgia and Turkmenistan.

Before his departure Rowhani elaborated on Iran's role in Central Asia and said Iran was to help restore peace, strengthen political stability and accelerate development of the region.

He said that adventurism and foreign interventions are threatening Central Asia, especially the Caucasus and that Iran was for those countries maintaining their independence.

The Iranian parliamentarian said that given the collapse of the Soviet Union and emergence of new political conditions in the former Soviet republics, it is necessary that those countries be assisted economically and politically.

Rowhani, who also chairs the foreign policy commission of Majles, said during his stay in Armenia, Georgia and Turkmenistan, he would meet with the presidents and foreign ministers of those republics.

Mps from Tehran, Tabriz and Nowshahr Mohammad-Javad Larijani, Seyyed Javad Angaji and Farajollah Afrazideh as well as foreign ministry director general in charge of Commonwealth of Independent States department Mohajeri are accompanying Rowhani in his three nation tour.

President Visits Province, Inaugurates Factory

LD2108094095 Tehran IRNA in English
0924 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 21, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Yazd, in central Iran, this morning and was welcomed by a number of senior provincial officials.

Upon arrival, the president said the objective of his tour to the province is to inaugurate and inspect a number of development projects as well as meeting with provincial officials.

Underlining the importance of the project for transferring Zayandeh-Roud water (in Isfahan) to Yazd province, the president said the major part of the credit needed for the project would be met by the government while some public investment is also predicted.

The operation for laying 325 km of pipeline for transferring Zayandeh-Roud water to Yazd started in late August last year, 44 km of which has so far been laid.

Ministers of industry, health, defense and energy as well as heads of the organizations of atomic energy and, plan and budget are accompanying the president in his tour.

Later on Monday [21 August], in the presence of President Rafsanjani Yazd tyre manufacturing factory became operational.

The factory, the largest in the Middle East, has the capacity of supplying the market with 10 million pieces of tyres and tubes in 24 different sizes annually.

Construction of the factory started four years ago with a capital of rls. 62.1 billion and in an area of 40 hectares of land. Some 100 people have worked on the factory which is constructed in Khezr- abad industrial township of Yazd.

With the operation of the factory, launched by Iranian experts, 10 percent of domestic demand for tyres and 30 percent for tubes for passenger car and 100 percent for bicycle and motocycle tyres and tubes would be met inside the country.

Earnings Reported From 'Petrochemical Products'

LD2308123995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0930 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During the past five months, over 1 million tonnes of products from the country's petrochemical industries was exported.

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The managing director [Mr. Khosrowtaj] of the Petrochemical Trading Company [Sherkat-e Bazargani-ye Petrochimi] announced: With the export of these products, $180 million worth of foreign currency has been earned by the country and this figure is expected to reach $350 million by the end of the current year [ending 20 March 1996].

Mr. Khosrowtaj also announced that petrochemical products exported during last year [ended 20 March 1995] was about 2 million tonnes and was worth $270 million dollars.

The products of the petrochemical industries have so far been exported to India, Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, and some other countries of the Far East and Europe.

The managing director of the Petrochemical Trading Company noted that the country's petrochemical industries produce 50 kinds of goods, 2.75 million tonnes of which were offered to the country's domestic industries during last year and in the first five months of the current year.

Former Bank Head Appointed Canadian Ambassador

NC1708185795 Tehran SALAM in Persian 13 Aug 95 p 2

[From the News Desk]

[FBIS Translated Text] The former Governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, has finally received orders to go to Canada as Iran's ambassador following months of rumors and denials.

'Adeli's assignment as Iranian ambassador in Canada had been bandied about for quite some time, but for unknown reasons the orders had not been issued.

After a five-year term as the Central Bank governor, 'Adeli stepped aside but was appointed to the position of international economic adviser by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in which post he had been serving until now.

Reliable sources say that 'Adeli is scheduled to leave for Canada this week.

Article Details Water Problems in Zahedan

95LA0310A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Jun 95 p 11

[Article by Zahedan's RESALAT correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the onset of the summer season, 80 percent of the 500,000 living in the city of Zahedan, especially those living on the fringes, the workers living in the industrial villages, and another percentage of the citizens of this region, have been faced with a shortage of water. The city of Zahedan, due to its limited water table and the unsuitability of the piped water, is one of the nation's lowest rated cities with respect to water availability.

The people even have problems obtaining their daily drinking water. This has led the government to decide to solve the water shortage problem by getting drinking water from the Hirmand River in Sistan, and to carry out this great project it will be necessary to lay 200 km of pipe.

Concessions were approved for this purpose last year, but because they were so insignificant, expenditures were made only for preliminary and preparatory work. The Ministry of Energy has not yet taken the basic steps to begin construction on this vital project.

Mr. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip full of good and blessings to the Province of Sistan va Baluchestan caused the president of the republic to become aware of the water shortage problem and its consequences in this region. He ordered the rapid implementation of the project to transfer water from the natural reservoirs at Chah Nimeh in the Sistan Plain, and the ground was broken for its construction operations. It is not clear, however, why this work has been delayed, despite the emphasis given to it by the respected president of the republic.

Since Zahedan is the only route through which hundreds of tourists pass from the East Asian nations to other parts of the world and back and it is also the place where thousands of Pakistani pilgrims stop and rest for several days on their way to visit the holy sites, especially the pure graves of Imam Reza and His Holiness Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him), it is necessary to look for the needed drinking water throughout Zahedan and sometimes to reach out to the border with empty hands in order to provide for the welfare of the 500,000 people in this region and protect the Islamic Republic's reputation in the eyes of the foreigners who come through this area. At the same time serious steps must be taken to begin construction on the project to lay the water pipeline.

Article on International Trade, National Economy

95LA0317B Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 Jul 95 p 10

[FBIS Translated Text] With the improvement in the international economy in recent years and in the last Christian Era year, world exports saw their greatest growth in 20 years. The value of exports last year increased about 9 percent compared to the previous year

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to a total of more than $4 trillion, yet the growth of world production of goods in the same period was only 3.5 percent.

Today international trade is the basis for economic production. In their trade, the nations of the world strive to get the lowest prices possible on the goods and services they need. In this situation, the world of trade will face more extensive and intense competition every day.

With the meeting of the World Trade Organization at the beginning of the current Christian Era year and with 100 of the nations of the world as members of this organization, the sensitivity of free trade and intense competition to gain foreign markets is more evident than ever. In order to survive economically and achieve economic, political, social, and cultural development, many of the world's newly industrialized and developing nations are trying to join the free trade caravan by making economic reforms.

In this regard, governments are seeking to eliminate unproductive entities and to form new entities and organizations which are able to make national products internationally competitive. These removals and changes are being done with comprehensive expert studies and research based on clear goals, in order to achieve the desired results for the national economy and for world society.

While the share of the world's developing nations in international trade is being weakened day by day because of the weakness of the market system, the lack of access to markets, the presence of multinational companies, and clever competition in markets, and while the export goods from these nations are facing price decreases, the management and administrative problems in these societies are also adding to the problems.

After World War II, the world's developing nations implemented various models for economic development, some of which had disastrous results such as accumulated foreign debt, and some of which were also successful.

One of the basic criteria for successful implementation of development policies is appropriate management and administrative structure, in order to permit the best distribution of work with the least government apparatus and the greatest return. The nations that have been able to achieve appropriate economic growth and development in the last three decades have changed their administrative management and social structure in view of national development needs.

Although they faced problems in making these changes, they were still able to reduce the problems and cut the size of the government apparatus as much as possible, and to increase the efficiency of the work. This requires scientific examination and expert study of the management and administrative structure.

Iran's first model for economic, social, and cultural development was designed five years ago. One of the basic components of this model was making the nation's administrative apparatus small and establishing appropriate order in relations among government organizations. Although significant success was not achieved in this regard in the First Five-Year Plan, this direction has been retained by planners in the Second Five-Year Plan.

Although the goal has been selected in the desired form, the results were not positive because of weak scientific and expert studies before the government organizations were consolidated or changed.

In this context a new motion has been submitted to the Majles to separate Customs from the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs and append it to the Ministry of Commerce. Public opinion is not yet aware of the reason for making such a proposal and its advantages and disadvantages, yet the Islamic Republic needs foreign markets to survive economically in the new international trade situation with the emergence of the World Trade Organization and the new trade regulations.

In this article we will look at Iran's situation in the world, the government's new economic policies, and the place of sensitive organizations, especially Iran Customs.

Iran's International Market Position

Today's world knows Iran as a nation that has oil and exports it. With 92.9 billion barrels of proven crude oil reserves, Iran has about 9.2 percent of the world's oil reserves, although it is number two among OPEC members in terms of oil production and exports.

Iran's proven natural gas reserves is 20.7 trillion cubic meters, which is about 14.1 percent of the world's proven gas reserves. After Russia, Iran is the world's second-richest nation in gas reserves.

Despite such rich oil and gas reserves and more than 70 years of experience in oil trade and industry, in its First Five-Year Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan the Islamic Republic declared reduced oil and gas revenues as one of its main goals. In this Five-Year Plan and in its continuation in the Second Five-Year Plan, this goal remained in the forefront of the government's programs.

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Last year Iran earned about $13.5 billion from oil exports, while the value of the nation's non-oil exports was $4.4 billion. Last year the share of non-oil revenues in the nation's total foreign exchange revenues was about 25 percent, and this is one of the things achieved in the First Five-Year Plan.

Although earning about $18 billion from the world economy is not worthy of the nation's economic capacity, in the view of the government and specialist experts and insiders, it was not that easy to do.

In these circumstances, even crude oil, which is the life blood of the world's economy, cannot be exported that freely because of obstacles in the world oil market such as the active involvement of the multinational oil companies who control markets and prices, the lack of solidarity and cooperation among oil-producing nations, even within OPEC, the drop in the value of dollars earned in oil transactions, the problems imperialism created directly and indirectly for the sale of Iran's oil, the intense and mercenary competition among oil dealers, and other things. In this market, the buyers set the terms.

Conditions are not that favorable either in the market for non-oil products. For example, in the carpet market, which accounts for close to 40 percent of the nation's non-oil export revenues, we are faced with intense competition from countries such as China, India, Pakistan, and others, who market carpets without regard for the rights of cultural works (copyrights) as Iranian carpets. They sell these in large quantities with low quality and low prices. Some carpet-exporting nations such as India and Pakistan who previously attended GATT even had tariff concessions for exporting carpets to European markets.

In the market for agricultural products there is intense competition, along with various claims from some countries about the hygiene of these products and the bad propaganda that is made. An example is the permissible level of aflatoxin in pistachios, which has eclipsed Iran's pistachio exports many times.

With the new international trade regulations, which require the reduction of agricultural subsidies within 10 years, it will be more difficult to obtain markets for agricultural products in the future.

Despite this, study and attention to the international market and its movement, along with the new laws and regulations on obtaining markets, will be a sensitive requirement for the nation's economy.

Iran's Domestic Economy

Since 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990], when the nation's Economic Reform and Reconstruction Program began, we saw many temporary and long-term fluctuations, but although more than $120 billion in investments in the nation's economic structure during the nation's First Five-Year Economic Plan helped improve the structure and foundations of the economy and self-sufficiency was achieved in the production of many goods, there is still a long way to go to modernize the nation's economy.

In view of the fact that the model for economic development has changed to one of replacing imports through the development of exports, continuing on this path will be a difficult, competitive, and relatively long cycle. It will only be possible to make this difficult journey with proper and principled management, a management that can develop the nation's non-oil exports and can meet the needs of industrial development making the best allocations of the foreign exchange earned from exports.

Although the conditions the Islamic Republic will be facing in the next five years will be completely different and more desirable than the ones it faced in the beginning of the First Five-Year Plan, with the $30 billion in foreign commitments from the First Five-Year Plan and the need to rely less on foreign financial resources, these years will be more difficult than the last five years.

The new economic policies the government has recently adopted show that planners and policy makers have wisely turned for the future to economizing on foreign exchange, relying on domestic revenue sources, and making better allocations of revenues (both in foreign exchange and rials). It was with these things in mind that the policy was adopted to regulate the markets for foreign exchange and goods. Today, fighting inflation and the smuggling of goods and foreign exchange to bring equilibrium to the market are at the top of the government's agenda. All the Islamic Republic's organizations and bodies must therefore move together in this direction. Any shortcoming or lack of coordination that comes about in the flow of the government's work can have an undesirable and even retarding effect on the program's efficiency.

In view of the sensitivity of the nation's economic situation in circumstances where world imperialism still puts new problems and obstacles in the way of Iran's development every day, and with the negative propaganda that seeks profit as much as possible in this regard, currently every decision must be made with scientific and expert study and research.

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Pakistan

Radio Assails India's 'Misinformation' on Hostages

BK2408031195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government of Pakistan has again expressed deep concern about the hostage crisis in occupied Kashmir and regretted that the Indian authorities are maliciously trying to establish a link between Pakistan and the kidnappers. Commenting on TIMES and INDEPENDENT of London reports, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad yesterday that India is deliberately providing wrong information to embassies of countries of the hostages and trying to establish a link between Pakistan and the kidnapers which does not exist.

The spokesman regretted that responsible newspapers like TIMES and INDEPENDENT have published false reports to further the Indian campaign to blame Pakistan for the crisis when all of this is being engineered by India itself. The spokesman said that the press report that President Clinton had talks with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto as a result of which the killing of hostages by kidnappers was averted is totally false. The report is part of the misinformation campaign unleashed by the Indian authorities. The evil campaign to implicate Pakistan in the hostage crisis is aimed at diverting attention from doubts and misgivings arising about the role of India's own intelligence agencies in relation to the abduction of foreign tourists.

Afghan Jets Violate Airspace, Bomb Border Towns

LD2308132395 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Aug. 23, IRNA — Afghan factional fighting spilled over into Pakistan as Afghan planes pounding rival bases also hit border villages in Kurram agency in north western frontier province, news reports said Wednesday [23 August].

The jet fighters of Afghan Government led by President Borhanoddin Rabbani dropped bombs in Teri Mangal village in Kurran Agency while pounding positions of forces of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction headed by Golboddin Hekmatyar in eastern Paktia Province.

The reports said Afghan planes also hit Gobazina and Haddarra villages.

However, no casuality was reported.

Meanwhile, twenty persons were killed and many others injured in Paktia Province as a result of Afghan jets bombing.

According to official news agency APP, it was the first ever violation of Pakistani airspace by Afghan planes since the collapse of communist regime in 1992.

Afghan Action Brings 'Strong Protest'

BK2408023595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest about the unprovoked violation of its airspace and the bombing by an Afghan aircraft. An Afghan fighter aircraft repeatedly violated Pakistan's airspace and bombed a number of places in the Teri Mangal region on 22 August in which a school building was damaged. The Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday and told to inform his authorities that the Kabul government will be wholly responsible for serious consequences if such violations are not stopped in future. He was also told to ask his government to pay compensation for the damage caused to the school building due to the bombing.

MQM Calls For Strike After Assassination Attempt

BK2308095395 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 23 Aug 95 pp 1,10

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — The MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] co-ordination committee Tuesday [22 August] called a two-day strike throughout Sindh to register a protest-cum-mourning over the "kidnappings and murders" of its activists by the law-enforcement agencies as nine more people fell prey to snipers firing here.

The strike call followed an assassination attempt on party leader Sheikh Liaquat Hussain, who was on the MQM negotiating team. Gunmen sprayed bullets on Hussain's car as he drove from party headquarters to his home. Hussain, 63, escaped unhurt but a policeman was injured.

Nine people were killed and 15 others wounded as the violence turned the district Central and some other parts of the city into a fire ball following the murder attempt on Shaikh Liaquat.

Areas of Nazimabad, Liaqatabad, New Karachi and Orangi Town echoed with the deafening sound of gunfire. Shooting incidents also reported from Edgah and Korangi areas in the late hours. Miscreants rushed onto the roads and streets, pelted the moving objects with stones and set alight five vehicles including two PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] staff vans and a Pakistan Steel's bus at different spots. Unidentified car riders and hidden gunmen targeted people and vehicles wildly at several spots in Liaqatabad, killing four persons besides injuring six, including a woman.

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The search operation in the Lines Area finally ended with the detention of some youth. Shaikh Liaquat Hussain was driving his car back to home from party's centre, Nine-Zero, through Gharibabad Chowrangi when unidentified gunmen resorted to heavy shooting on his vehicle and on the accompanying police security van. A police constable, deployed on Hussain's security duties suffered bullet wounds on his arm when the bullets hit the police van.

The MQM blamed the government to be responsible of the incident while the police were of the view that the accompanying mobile van might be the original target of the assailants.

Witnesses said that as soon as Hussain's car was fired, he wildly turned his car to the opposite side which helped him escape the injuries miraculously. The news of the incident spread all over the city like a jungle fire, leading to firing incidents in different parts of the city.

Witnesses said that the assailants opened indiscriminate fire on the vehicle and people at different spots in Liagatabad and its adjoining localities. Police said that all the casualties occurred at Chuna Depot, Mizrab Cinema and near the main Liaqatabad signal where people fell victims to the shooting by hidden gunmen and unidentified car riders. They fired at the passers by and the people waiting for the transport, targeted private cars and passengers.

The MQM alleged that Qazi Khalid advocate, an officer negotiating member from the party side, also escaped such an attack near Mizrab Cinema. Talking to The News from London senator Ma Jalilsaid that the Karachi airport authorities have taken away Shaikh Liaquat Hussain while he was leaving for Umra in the evening as per his decided programme.

Meanwhile, Ajmal Dehlvi urged a total shut down on Wednesday and Thursday, but said the strike should be non-violent". Dehlvi said the strike call was made after consultations with Altaf Hussain.

Nine-Zero, the Azizabad head-quarters of the MQM, confirmed that a strike had been called, but dispelled the impression that it was a continuation of the two-day weekly protest which the MQM had launched prior to the negotiations with the government and revoked later as a "goodwill gesture".

In a statement, the MQM said the strike was being observed to mourn the deaths-in-custody and to voice protest over repeated cordoning off and search operations.

The statement reiterated the MQM's earlier view on the talks. We still want a negotiated resolution of the problems, but the government translates this as our weakness. It said that while the MQM practised restraint in the face of recent provocations, the government thought there was no need for talks.

The committee appealed to the people to protest over the Muhajirs' "genocide" by the government by keeping their transport and businesses closed. It asked the party activists to look out for miscreants who might plan terrorist acts to hurt the cause for which the strike was being observed.

The strike call has come five days after the co-ordination committee's announcement that it was ready to resume talks with the government even if the latter insisted on calling the party as 'Altaf Group'.

Radio Reports on Strike

BK2308114495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Karachi, a partial strike is being observed on the call of [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]-Altaf Group. Public transport is plying in limited number in some areas. However, private vehicles and taxis are visible on the road.

There are reports of firing and arson from different parts of the city. According to police, two bodies were found in the jurisdiction of Mehmanabad and FIB [expansion unknown] Colony police stations. One person was injured in Garden Area. In an encounter with (Risala) police, one person was killed and two were arrested. Thirteen vehicles were reported burnt by miscreants in the jurisdiction of Nabibaksh, Kalaghot, Garden Area, PIB [expansion unknown] Colony, Korangi, Sharifabad, Zaman Town, Jamshed Quarters police station areas.

Strike Reportedly 'Crippled' Life

BK2308140395 Hong Kong AFP in English 1340 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, Aug 23 (AFP) — A protest strike called by the opposition Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) crippled life in Karachi and several other cities in southern Pakistan Wednesday [23 August] and left at least six people dead, officials and residents said.

The shut down for Wednesday and Thursday was called by the MQM in an apparent show of strength following recent raids on party strongholds by security forces who claimed the ethnic-based party's militancy has been tamed.

"It was a desperate decision," an official here said, stressing that the MQM strength was marred by recent security operations against militants.

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The MQM said the protest was to mourn the alleged killings of scores of its activists by police and paramilitary Rangers and mass arrests of its followers in recent weeks.

Markets, shops, businesses and banks remained closed while snipers shot dead five people in different areas of the strife torn port city, witnesses and police said.

Officials said the bullet ridden body of a soldier was also found Wednesday, raising the toll in a new surge of violence in the past 24 hours to 17.

The strike was also observed in Hyderabad, the second largest city of the southern province of Sindh, some 160 kilometers (100 miles) northeast of here where armed militants torched at least two vehicles.

Officials said a partial strike was also observed in other cities in Sindh province including Mirpurkhas, Nawabshah and Sukkur.

Streets in most areas of Karachi were deserted and schools and colleges remained closed. The country's main bourse, the Karachi Stock Exchange, suspended activity as very few brokers turned up, a senior bourse member said.

Industrial activity was also affected because of low turn out in the absence of transport.

At least 15 vehicles were gutted, police reported, while witnesses said people riding in cars and on motorbikes opened fire in several places, causing casualties.

The MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking Muhajir immigrants who came here after the 1947 partition of the subcontinent, is locked in confrontation with the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The authorities say around 500 militants, mostly belonging to the MQM, have been arrested and more than 80 alleged terrorists killed in recent months. The MQM says thousands of supporters have been netted in police swoops.

MQM Chief Altaf Hussain, currently in self-exile in London, sent a letter to President Farooq Leghari accusing the government of "ruthlessly flouting" all international laws on human rights in its treatment of the Muhajir community.

"My people have been subjected to all kinds of torture, plunder, humiliation and mass murders" by the law enforcement and intelligence agencies of the state for the last three years, Hussain said.

Bhutto's government blames the MQM for much of the bloodshed in Karachi where more than 1,300 have been killed this year.

She in turn is accused by the group of causing the violence by pursuing an anti-Muhajir policy and ordering a crackdown on MQM followers.

Coinciding with the strike call, the government Tuesday invited the MQM to resume peace talks in Karachi on August 29. The negotiations were halted last month after four unproductive rounds.

Chief MQM negotiator Ajmal Dehlvi said Wednesday that the party high command would consider the offer Friday.

"We have no objection," he said, adding that "most probably we will attend the session as scheduled" by the government.

Minister Claims Violence 'Rejected'

BK2408040895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Nasirullah Khan Babar has said the strike in Karachi yesterday was partial and the citizens have rejected the violent attitude of the Altaf Group. He was talking to APP in Islamabad last night. He said transport was on the road and shops were open in most of the areas. The people are not prepared to lend any support to terrorist activities. The interior minister said the government had made all possible arrangements to ensure the people's security.

The interior minister made it clear that maintenance of law and order is the responsibility of the government which cannot allow the terrorists a free hand. He appreciated the courageous attitude of the people of Karachi to reject the violent activities and expressed his confidence that they would demonstrate a similar attitude today.

Gunmen Reportedly Attack Office of MQM Negotiator

BK2408095795 Islamabad THE NATION in English 24 Aug 95 pp 1, 11

[Report by Ifran Ali]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi—Unidentified gunmen attacked the office of daily Amn on Wednesday [23 August] night, when the editor of the daily, also the chief of MQM(A) [Muhajir Qaumi Movement - Altaf] negotiating team, Mr Ajmal Dehlvi was there. Mr Dehlvi termed it as a "murderous attempt" when he was asked about the incident.

Four armed men riding in a white Suzuki Hi-roof opened fire at about 9.50 pm and threw cracker near traffic signal of Elinder Road. On hearing the sound of firing, the mobile squad of Mr Delhvi became alert.

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After a few seconds, two gunmen threw crackers on the office of daily Amn. Guards retaliated and after exchange of fire for about five to seven minutes the assailants fled away. Some circles are of the view that the attack was a part of a plot. They said that government may be involved in this plot.

Mr Ajmal Dehlvi, chief of MQM(A) talks team, said that two members, Qazi Khalid Ali and Shaikh Liaquat Hussain were attacked, therefore, it was another move to scare the members of dialogue team. He termed the attack as an "murderous attempt".

However, Deputy Commissioner and other high officials reached the office of Mr Delvi on hearing about the incident.

A heavy contingent of police and Rangers also took position after this incident which spread panic among the journalists community, as most of the newspapers offices are located in the same area.

Meanwhile, reports of heavy firing were received from Baldia Town and Burns Road area.

Article on Attitude Towards MQM-Government Talks

95AS0470C Karachi TAKBEER in Urdu 20 Jul 95 p 37

[Article by Saud Sahir: "Negotiations Are Fake"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The whole nation is focused on the talks between the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] and the Pakistan People's Party [PPP]. However, The attitude of the representatives of both sides sitting at the negotiation table is very belligerent. The PPP and the MQM are known for their character of not to considering "live and let live" to be very effective for their political survival. Instead of approaching politics as a game, they consider it a gamble. The MQM, however, has to its credit the fact that during its 9-year political existence it has not taken any step that could be called democratic except for attracting voters in the name of getting their rights. [passage omitted]

As for the two MQM senators—Sayyed Ishtiaq Azhar and Aftab Ahmed Sheikh—they are in Islamabad and are not willing to give any more importance to these talks than as a joke. Their relations with the top leadership of their party is expedient in nature. They also say that we are behind bars and cannot meet with anyone. None of the MQM negotiation team members arrived in Islambad by Monday [17 July] because the MQM is finding it hard to say anything about the agenda. Some responsible persons did say that the MQM has somehow presented three conditions to the government. These include suspending the present operation in Karachi, withdrawing the case against Altaf Hussain, and stopping the practice of presenting MQM members are terrorists to the newspaper and television media. However, the government is not willing to accept any condition and is demanding that the MQM stop all of its illegal activities in Karachi before any agreement. Because of this situation, the people in the capital believe that both parties are not seriously interested in finding a solution. They just want to give the impression that they want to resolve this issue with talks. There are a large number of persons in the bureaucracy and the government who support the MQM view in the context of the problems in urban Sindh. However, the majority of them also think that these talks are not very different than the talks held in Islamabad after ethnic riots that took place during the 70's in Karachi. At that time when Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was in power, unauthorized persons from both sides held discussions without any effective result. Instead, the situation got even worse. Even the negotiation team that the government has formed does not know the agenda for talks. Some persons are expressing the apprehension that the team the government has formed for holding talks with the MQM is not capable of understanding the very serious situation in Karachi. However, the government has won a major victory because of these talks. Nawaz Sharif has been forced to postpone the conference that the opposition was planning to hold in Karachi to discuss this issue. If the talk about negotiations has not been started, Nawaz Sharif, Nasrullah Khan, Maulana Fazalul Rehman, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, and even Hamid Nasir Pith, who is a personal enemy of Nawaz Sharif, had agreed that if he could not attend the talks himself, he would send a second-level leader to represent the Pith. Benazir Bhutto's supporters have informed her that they cannot dissociate themselves from any action to promote peace in Karachi. If the conference that Nawaz Sharif had called had succeeded in the presence of PPP supporter in presenting a plan that was accepted by important leaders then Benazir Bhutto and her government would have been in serious trouble. The destruction and havoc brought by the fight between the government and the MQM could result in loss of faith by the people in both parties.

According to government sources, talks between the MQM and the government are to start on Tuesday. There is not even one person in the capital, including PPP Parliament Members, who has even the slightest amount of expectation from these talks. Knowledgeable circles claim that the agreement reached between the PPP and the MQM under pressure from the military in 1988 never was implemented. Mirza Aslam Beg, military chief at that time, had given the MQM to the IJI out of frustration. It is advised to the people

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in power that the path of negotiations should be taken instead of solving a problem with force. However, they are also cautioned that politicians should be forced to clean up the dirt they have spread. Meetings of the joint chiefs of staff and core commanders were held in Karachi recently after one day's interval. These were routine meeting and there appeared to be no emergency, however, the military leadership cannot be indifferent to problems in the nation. They also discussed the issue of peace in Karachi. The newspapers are expressing loud opinions about it. It is difficult to say anything about the actual proceedings, however, the military leadership was definite in its opinion that political problems should be resolved politically. The state chief minister and high government officials who had come with the governor to Islamabad last week on invitation from the prime minister had repeatedly admitted in hushed tones that there is no presence of the government or its machinery in Karachi and if this situation continued for a few more months then the administration will be forced to make this announcement. [passage omitted]

Government Reported To Diversify Arms Purchases

95AS0470B Lahore MUSAWAT in Urdu 11 Jul 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Pakistan Will not Rely on One Single Nation for Defense Needs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The determination of the present government to arm and equip the military will not depend on one single nation; instead it will contact the nations that will provide us arms according to our wishes and satisfaction. The defense minister said in a special interview given to a news agency [not specified] the other day that we cannot depend on the United States for weapons and equipment. He said that the issue of delivering the F-16s or returning the money already paid for them is under discussion in the U.S. Senate. "We are not negligent about Pakistan's defense and are diligently watching India's missile activities. We are prepared to meet any kind of situation." The defense minister said in the context of defense machinery that God willing our cooperative project with China will result in the production of Super-7 planes by 1997. Similarly, talks to build ships are also taking place between the two countries under the plan to share technology. Pakistan has contacted several nations for purchasing war planes in addition to contacting France for Mirage planes. In order to modernize the Navy and provide it with modern weapons, especially submarines, Pakistan-made submarines will be included in Pakistani Navy by the beginning of next century.

The issues the defense minister discussed in his detailed talk point to the fact that the present government is the only government that has shown a new path in the areas of economy and employment and is also taking steps to meet Pakistan's defense needs and strengthen military keeping in mind India's design in this region. We cannot deny the fact that India considers itself a superpower now. It has nations around it that share its boarders or are connected to another country in the region. India considers itself the "policeman" for the region and is dreaming of becoming a power to control the neighboring nations. That is why India upset the balance of power in this region with its missile program. This has not only jeopardized the security of this region, but also, as our prime minister put it, endangered peace in the whole world because of its war fever.

Another fact is that no government of the past ever paid as much attention as the present government to purchase defense machinery. As for the Pressler amendment, the defense minister pointed out that no other government in the past ever raised as effective a voice as has the present government. The is why the U.S. Senators who did not even recognize Pakistan's existence in the past, support Pakistan's stand now. President Clinton himself has called the Pressler amendment an atrocious amendment. Similarly, the Pakistan Navy was the weakest navy in the region until a few years ago. Now it possesses the best war ships and submarines. Pakistan has also approached France, Great Britain, and other friendly nations to procure war planes. The Pakistani commander-in-chief said in response of India's war plans that India should forget that it can gain anything by harassing Pakistan. Pakistan's armed forces are prepared to respond to any enemy action very strongly.

Editorial Addresses 'Opposition Leader's Claim'

95AS0468I Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 15 Jul 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Opposition Leader's Claim"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nawaz Sharif has published an article describing his role as the opposition leader during the last 20 months; he claims: "Our sacrifices and agitations have successfully prevented the government from following certain dangerous policies. Many battles have been won but many more still remain to be won."

As far as the government's important policies are concerned, none have been abandoned and all continue as before. We do not know which important policies Nawaz Sharif is referring to when he claims that the government had abandaned or been made to abandon them. It is obvious to everyone that the policy which the government adopted from day one to crush the opposition by the use of force has been intensified. More than two hundred cases have been filed against Nawaz

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Sharif. As he himself has written, more than sixty members of parliament and provincial assemblies have been arrested; many have been subjected to violence; one has been sentenced to seven years imprisonment on trumped up charges and many others are waiting to be sentenced. The livelihood and legitimate economic interests of leaders and workers have sufffered a blow. In addition to her vindictive actions against the opposition party, the other important policy of the Benazir government has been to obey the dictates of the World Bank and IMF and raise prices for the people; the most recent example is the increase in rates for electricity. This government policy is not winding down but intensifying. In regard to Kashsmir, the government is exerting its full pressure to stop the aid which is being given to Kashmiri mujahideen from Azad Kashmir. The nuclear program was halted during Nawaz Sharif's administration and still remains frozen. In short, the government is forging full speed ahead in pursuit of its important policies. The claim of the leader of the opposition that he has stopped the government from pursuing some wrong policies makes no sense. Will Sharif point out the wrong policy which the government has abandoned or been made to abandon? Pakistan would be a fortunate country today if the party in office had been in the habit of altering its policies because of opposition pressure. Unfortunately, this has never happened. In the past also just as today, the voice of the opposition has had as much influence as the lone voice in the desert. One reason for this is that the party in office and the opposition will not accept each other's status and each accuses the other of being a traitor and an enemy of the country. Each has always tried to destroy the other. In this blind war, the opposition party is not interested in stopping the government from pursuing wrong policies and suggesting alternative polices nor is the party in office inclined to seek the opposition's advice in formulating policy. This was the situation during the terms of office of Ayub Khan, Bhutto, Nawaz Sharif and now Benazir. As long as the country is ruled by parties in office and in opposition of this calibre, the country's misfortunes will only increase. Nawaz Sharif says in his article that he is often asked as to why, since the opposition is not able to topple the government, does it continue its agitation and he answers that removing the government was not the opposition's sole aim; the opposition also intended to obstruct the government's wrong policies. If this was in fact the opposition's objective, then there was no need to start the salvation movement because this movement and other such actions only demontrated that Sharif's sole aim was to overturn the government. Motivated by this wish, he started the salvation movement without a realistic appraisal of the situation; as a consequence, the opposition party suffered a setback and lost prestige. It was because of Sharif's naivete that he fell repeatedly into the opposition's trap and by targeting president Leghari, caused his relations with the president to become strained. Efforts are being made to remedy this blunder and the extent of these efforts is due to the diplomatic behaviour of the president who, even when under a rapid fire of accusations by the opposition, did not lose his self control. As far as Sharif's opposition party was concerned, it tried its best to ruin relations with the president. Our leader of the opposition did not do the right thing concerning the Karachi situation. He was right when he said that the Karachi problem can be solved only through negotiations but he should also have told the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] and its leader not to plunge Karachi into "mourning"; not to bring life in the city to a standstill through strikes and to concentrate instead on establishing peace which is Karachi's first need. But Sharif made no such statement and the people of Karachi feel that Sharif has no sympathy for them; that his only interest in the matter is to take advantage of the fight and that he would like to see the fight become so intense as to provide justification for deposing the government. The disorder in Karachi, however, is proving harmful not only to the government but to every field of activity in the country. If [Sharif] had realized this injury to the country, he would not only have appealed to the government to negotiate but would have also appealed to MQM to play its part in restoring order. Sharif made his first appeal with great fervor but thought it inopportune to issue the second appeal; thus, he has remained silent. Such an opposition party can be considered neither patriotic, constructive nor positive. Such an opposition party only looks to its own individual power in the same way that the objective of the party in office is to maintain its personal government. Those who study the situation honestly will reach the conclusion that the party in power and the party in opposition are neither national nor political; their quarrel can at best be regarded as factional and in their fight they pay no heed to the country or the nation. The poor people of this country are being punished for having elected such leaders and they do not know how long they are destined to suffer.

Sri Lanka

Ministers Rule Out Early General Elections

BK1708125495 Hong Kong AFP in English 1122 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Aug 17 (AFP) — Sri Lanka President Chandrika Kumaratunga's government marked its first anniversary Thursday [17 August] with senior ministers playing down differences within the governing coalition and ruling out snap polls.

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Justice Minister G. L. Peiris dismissed speculation that the government might try to call early general elections to try to increase its present single seat majority in the 225-member assembly.

Peiris said the government would press ahead with its controversial peace plan aimed at ending the island's protracted ethnic conflict with Tamil separatists in the northeast which has claimed more than 50,000 lives in the past 23 years.

The package, which calls for extensive regional autonomy, is "controversial but we intend to go ahead with it," Peiris said.

Majority Sinhala hardliners say too much is being given to the Tamils while the main Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has also rejected the plan without specifically saying why.

At least one coalition partner in the governing People's Alliance has shown reluctance to support the peace drive unless it is watered down.

The LTTE which entered peace talks with the government pulled out of a truce abruptly on April 19 to resume its protracted guerrilla campaign for independence in the island's Northeast.

"The resumption of war is our main regret in the past year. There is so much more we could have done if not for this war imposed on us," Peiris said.

Information minister Dharmasiri Senanayake said that despite the violence, the country's economy had grown at a satisfactory five percent annually and foreign tourists continued to visit the island republic.

Senanayake said the government had also improved the country's human rights record.

He said "we have restored the people's right to life. In every sphere of economic activity we made progress."

But financial analysts said foreign investment in the country was falling and the economy was now slowing down due to the political uncertainties and the separatist war.

Minister on Proposals for Constitutional Change

LD2308204595 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1030 GMT 23 Aug 95

[From the "International Report" program; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Sri Lanka, as the military conflict in the north continues, the government has unveiled its proposals for constitutional change. In an attempt to deal with the grievances of Tamils the Sri Lankan Government proposes giving many of the powers of the central government to the regions. And the man responsible for explaining the latest changes, proposed a fortnight ago, is the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Professor G.L. Peiris. He is in Canberra for talks with Australian ministers and MPs. He spoke to Graham Dobell on how constitutional change can help resolve Sri Lanka's 30 years of ethnic conflict.

[Begin recording] [Peiris] We have tried to address the most volatile issues that have bedeviled Sri Lankan politics for the last three decades. Matters concerned with land settlement and colonization, police powers that would be exercised in the different regions, ways how to borrow money, direct investment — these of course would have to be controlled to some extent by the national treasury. There will be a bifurcation of the regional public service and the national public service with some residue of traditional powers. The regions will have very extensive powers in all these different fields.

[Dobell] And how much political power would they be able to wield within that region?

[Peiris] Well, such power as is necessary to deal with problems in connection with agriculture, fisheries, education, health, transport, cultural matters, and so on. But not power of a magnitude which would enable them to pose any kind of threat to the center — certainly not power that would enable them to secede from the Republic of Sri Lanka or to launch any kind of onslaught on the territorial integrity of the country. So, it is a delicate balance that you have to strike between preserving the nationhood of Sri Lanka and giving these different regions the powers that are necessary to deal with their problems effectively.

[Dobell] How much are you trying to change the political dynamic in the dialogue? [words indistinct] How much are you aiming to cut the Tamil Tigers out of the debate?

[Peiris] Well, we started by wanting to frustrate the Tamil Tigers. We were very sincere in our resolve to enter into a dialogue with them and that is exactly what we tried to do during the entirety of the cessation of hostilities period [words indistinct]. We bent over backwards to try to persuade them to come to the negotiating table and to talk about the political proposals. They were not willing to do that. It is therefore through necessity rather than through choice that we find ourselves in a situation where negotiation with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is impracticable. It is they who made the decision to resume the war and in that state

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of things all we can do is to talk to the elected representatives of the Tamil community in parliament.

[Dobell] Are you pursuing a carrot and stick approach — the military offensive in the north, to try to marginalize the Tigers while, on the other hand, offering other sections of the Tamil community these constitutional changes?

[Peiris] Well I would not myself describe it as a carrot and stick approach, I would call it not a two-pronged but a three- pronged approach. Where the Tigers unleash terror and violence on the Republic of Sri Lanka and its citizens, a military response by the government is inevitable to let us go on. The second prong of the [words indistinct] is the political initiative which to our minds is more important than any of the other prongs, because there lies the core, the kernel, of the argument [words indistinct]. The third component of it is a viable and effective economic strategy that is designed to develop those parts of the country — that is very necessary to hold the different regions together. [end recording]

LTTE Reportedly Steps Up Fund-Raising Campaign

BK2008114395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas have stepped up the campaign to raise funds to sustain their separatist war. Tamil sources said that in the past weeks, the Tigers have intensified the efforts to collect money from civilians residing in areas under LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] control to boost the campaign. The LTTE's clandestine radio announced that rebels on Friday [18 August] collected 175,000 rupees from a single area in their main stronghold, according to Tamil sources who monitored the broadcast. The latest contribution to the LTTE's defense fund was made by Tamil civilians residing in the Vadamarachchi District, the rebel Voice of Tigers radio said. The LTTE had recently announced in areas under their control that the organization hoped to collect another 100,000 million rupees [figure as heard] for the defense of what they call the Tamil Eelam, travelers from the region said.

'Confrontations' Between Army, 'Terrorists' Reported

BK2208141595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At least 12 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were killed in two separate confrontations with the Army on Sunday [20 August] night and early yesterday morning in Veerancholai and Kuchchaveli, north of Trincomalee. Army sources said that one soldier was killed and five others were injured when a group of LTTE terrorists ambushed an Army patrol around 1000 PM on Sunday. The Tigers attacked the same patrol again around 0400 the next morning, but suffered heavy casualties, the sources said. The Army said they recovered 12 terrorist bodies along with two grenades and a box of ammunition. The injured soldiers were airlifted to the Polonnaruwa Hospital.

Meanwhile, carters in the Mutur area have reported to police that 30 bullock carts belonging to them were stolen by the LTTE when they went to collect firewood in the Kiran jungles on Sunday morning. It is believed that the LTTE needs carts to transport arms and ammunition to Batticaloa through the jungles.

Police on Sunday night opened fire on two stray boats believed to be transporting LTTE cadres as the boats were approaching the Mutur jetty. It is not clear if there were any casualties. Our Vavuniya correspondent said five dead bodies of LTTE terrorists who were killed by security forces at Weli Oya-(Janakapura) camp on Sunday were handed over to the LTTE through the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross].

Meanwhile, Voice of the Tigers, the official radio of the LTTE, announced that second lieutenant (Isai Amuthan alias Isai Maran) of the LTTE was killed at Millagala last Saturday in a confrontation with security forces.

'Terrorists' Killed in Security Force Operation

BK2208130295 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nearly 15 terrorists were killed and an LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] armaments factory was captured amidst stiff resistance when the security forces launched Operation Dragon Fly yesterday moving out of their forward defense locality in Jaffna. Quoting senior military sources, LANKAPUVATH told SLBC that the government troops had moved 6 km ahead of their forward defense line on the first day of the operation to dominate areas (?toward) Chankanai and Mulai. The bodies of three terrorists were recovered along with a number of weapons. Senior military sources said that the armament factory was manufacturing (Paselan) heavy mortars. One soldier was killed and 15 were wounded in the fighting.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1228 GMT on 22 August in a similar report adds the following: "Thousands

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of troops have launched a search-and-destroy mission against Tamil Tiger guerrillas in northern Sri Lanka, and both sides have suffered heavy casualties, the military said Tuesday [22 August].

"Infantry troops destroyed an abandoned ordnance factory of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Chankanai on Monday and kept up the offensive despite heavy mortar fire, a military spokesman said.

"We suffered one soldier killed and another 15 wounded, military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said, adding that the offensive was part of a strategy aimed at securing an area within the LTTE- held Jaffna peninsula.

"The LTTE lost at least three men killed and 17 wounded, the military said. The operation, code-named 'Dragon Fire,' [as heard] was launched Monday and would continue for about 72 hours, officials said.

"Munasinghe said LTTE fighters, who usually take away their casualties, fled leaving behind the bodies of three rebels killed by the troops.

"The LTTE's clandestine radio, the Voice of Tigers, said Tuesday that 12 civilians died as a result of shelling and asserted that the rebels had beaten off an army advance.

"Twenty civilians were also wounded in a 10-hour-long shelling by the army from three different positions in Jaffna, the radio said. The military denied this assertion."]

Further on Government Operation

BK2308121695 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sri Lankan troops have killed between 15 and 20 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists and captured an armaments factory in the Jaffna Peninsula. In an offensive code-named Operation Dragon Fire, government troops advanced four miles from their forward defense localities at Chankanai and Mulai where they met heavy resistance from the Tigers. LANKAPUVATH quoting senior military sources said the armed forces lost one soldier and 15 were wounded in the attack on the factory which made heavy mortars for the LTTE. The LTTE clandestine radio today warned refugees not to return to their homes for fear of casualty. Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said heavy casualties were inflicted on the LTTE and confirmed that three bodies have been found and at least 17 wounded. Chankanai lies within the 78 square kilometer captured by the military during Operation Leap Forward last month and which is now dominated by the armed forces.

Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte has said that the government had no alternative than the military action on the LTTE terrorists since they have not responded favorably to the government efforts to solve the ethnic crisis through peaceful means. He said that the government would make every effort to reestablish peace while the war continues. The minister was speaking at a function to receive donations to the national defense fund in Colombo yesterday.

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